

Dame
Edith Lyttelton

*President of the Society for
Psychical Research, 1933-34*



SOME CASES
OF
PREDICTION

A STUDY



BELL

Supernormal activities of the mind have not received the scientific attention they deserve. Telepathy alone has attained some sort of respectability and is generally admitted as a fact by those who have studied the evidence.

Among these supernormal powers of the mind the most perplexing is the faculty of prediction. There are some cases of prediction which cannot be explained even by telepathy or clairvoyance, but have to be attributed to some obscure power of precognition.

During a broadcast in the 'Enquiry into the Unknown' series of talks, Dame Lyttelton asked listeners to write to her about their own experiences of prediction. She received a great many letters and in this book has collected the cases which she personally investigated and for which she obtained corroborative evidence.

The result is a book of strange and impressive stories which cannot fail to impress even those who are sceptical on the subject.

2s. 6d. net

SOME CASES OF PREDICTION

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A STUDY

by
EDITH LYTTTELTON

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INTRODUCTION

SUPERNORMAL activities of the mind have not received the scientific attention they deserve. Telepathy alone has attained respectability – it is admitted as a fact by anyone who has studied the evidence collected by bodies like the Societies for Psychical Research in England and America, and the work of Myers, Barrett, Gurney, Lodge, the Sidgwicks, Hodgson, Richet, Osty and many others. Telepathy is indeed so respectable that it is constantly invoked to discredit other claims to supernormal activities. ‘Due to telepathy’ becomes a damning phrase, though it is often a valuable and constructive criticism.

But although telepathy is tacitly admitted, the scientific study of its power, limitation and possible range in time and space, has been neglected along with other supernormal activities of the mind. Attention in general has been focussed mostly upon stories of telepathy which have an emotional significance, often in association with the crudest spiritualistic theories and explanations. No doubt the claim long ago pegged out by spiritualists that many telepathic instances are evidential of the intervention of spirits, has warded off scientific investigation into its nature. Yet surely, if it be defined as communication between one mind and another mind without the assistance of the senses, it may be conceded that telepathy is an admitted phenomenon, and the matter should not be left in the air. It is not enough to point out that many cases of apparent telepathy are probably due to uncon-

scious physical indications, minute and not easily detected, but present nevertheless; or, if telepathy at a distance be involved, that coincidence or deduction or imagination may account for the result. These remarks certainly apply to many cases, but there still remains a very large residue of instances of undoubted transmission of thought or emotion which cannot be accounted for in these ways. It must be possible to discover a great deal more about this strange mental phenomenon than is known at present, and it seems curious that scientific men have not devoted more time and experiment to the effort.

Spiritualists are by now aware of the implications of telepathy and are more careful in their claims to possess evidence of spirit intervention. Nevertheless claims are constantly made which can be easily and plausibly declared invalid. Whether they always are invalid is another question.

There are instances which cannot be accounted for even by a telepathy endowed with powers far more complex than is generally admissible, and which must also, in the case of mediums, include the dramatization of telepathic evidence in order to suggest the identity of a communicator.

I have perhaps said enough here, though much more could be said, to show how important and necessary is the scientific study of telepathy. The essence of laboratory work is that results can be demonstrated by repeating experiments an indefinite number of times, but hitherto experiments in telepathy have on the whole been disappointing and inconclusive. Obviously the work that can be done in physics or biology is much more satisfactory to scientifically trained minds; as with telepathy there is an immense field of research

still open, and discoveries of the utmost importance to be made, but it is easier in these sciences to accumulate observations and test the validity of theories. It is no wonder that psychical research, which often has to reckon with fraud, and in any case with phenomena most difficult to define with precision, is left on one side.

In the last few years there has been a fresh development. Dr. Rhine of Duke University, U.S.A., Mr. Tyrrell in London, and others, have been trying systematically to test what Dr. Rhine calls extra-sensory perception, perception or apprehension of facts without the aid of the senses. Dr. Rhine's work and that of Mr. Tyrrell promise most interesting developments, though it is too soon to affirm any positive deductions. The work at present, and for a long time to come, must consist of experiment after experiment until certain results can be stated without fear of contradiction or disproof. Careful records of the fluctuation in success or failure and the possible causes of either must be kept, and it is only by a long and laborious series of trials that certain results can be reached. The inquiry is complex, dealing as it does with the idiosyncracies of human beings, and these not only in ordinary visible and tangible efforts, but in obscure mental or psychical processes.

These remarks apply also to other forms of supernatural activity. However strongly anyone may feel, as I do, that the different forms are merely different mechanisms used by the subliminal, or, as I prefer to call it, the superconscious mind, for conveying its perceptions to the ordinary conscious mind, yet it is necessary that all these different forms should be studied separately. In my opinion, telepathy, clairvoyance, automatism of various kinds, impressions auditory and

visual, hallucinations, visions, mind pictures, are all manifestations of supernormal faculty seeking expression. This is not the place to develop such a statement in detail. I have tried to do this elsewhere.¹

Among these supernormal powers the most perplexing, and one whose very existence is contested, is the faculty of prediction. This is a word which can be used to cover many different perceptions. Prediction has been expressed through all the forms of supernormal expression with which we are acquainted: mind pictures; impressions of many kinds, from vague to definite ones; clairvoyance; crystal gazing; automatisms generally; trance utterances, and I must add dreams, which often express or symbolize things of which the conscious mind is unaware. Through one and all of these mechanisms precognitive material has percolated. This fact, for it is a fact, is surely not without significance.

Spiritualists have claimed that when knowledge of the future is displayed, the agency of the dead must be admitted. But how can we assert that the discarnate beings if they exist know the future any more than the incarnate. They may do so, of course; they may possess a wider vision, or a greater power of deduction, or even more influence than the incarnate on the evolution of events. All these suppositions may be true, but they are mere guesses.

J. W. Dunne and H. F. Saltmarsh have put forward theories to account for the existence of precognition. Mr. Dunne's book *An Experiment with Time*, whether people agree with his deductions from an 'infinite regress' or not, has placed the whole question in a different position by drawing attention to the existence

¹ *Our Superconscious Mind*. Philip Allen & Co., Putnam.

of precognitive dreams. Mr. Saltmarsh attempts to show how precognition happens. He thinks it possible that the subliminal mind grasps a larger present than the conscious mind. But this is really only a guess, or, if the fact be admitted, a restatement. As he himself says, even if it be an accurate account of how foreknowledge reaches the conscious mind, it does not attempt to follow up the implications. Whatever these may be they must profoundly affect the conception of our being and even that of the world we inhabit. More than this general remark I will not hazard here.

That some predictions are cases of definite precognition I personally have no doubt at all.

The future can, of course, be foretold in many ways: we know the movements of the planets beforehand, we know the almost certain result of this or that human action, movement, project and to that extent we can foretell. This might be called precognition, but it is really a forecasting of probabilities. There are instances which seem more mysterious, but which can be accounted for by telepathy. Most examples do not necessarily imply precognition in the true sense at all, but more probably knowledge acquired by telepathy of an event already on its way, already travelling through the present to the future.

Perhaps the most interesting of these cases are those of a premonitory nature. I have collected some and shall include one or two in this book because they display precognition. But naturally warning or advice may be tendered without displaying precognition. Many instances of warning or advice conveyed by super-normal methods exist and it is probable that a collection of such cases now being examined may be prepared

for publication in a few months' time. I merely note this in passing.

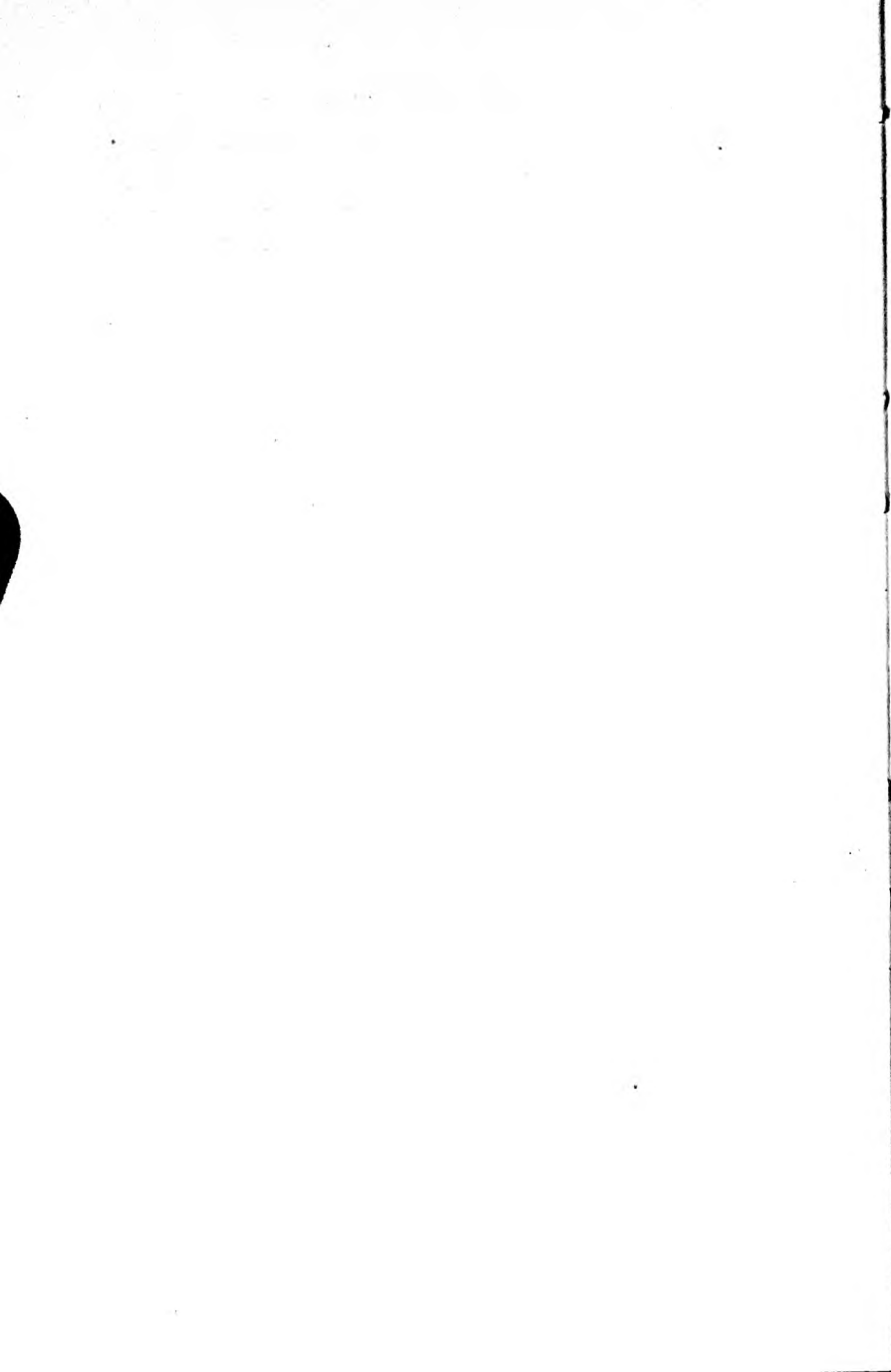
After eliminating these possible and probable kinds of foreknowledge, even though acquired by supernormal perception such as telepathy or clairvoyance, there yet remain cases which can be called precognitive in the true sense, i.e. the knowledge of events in the future yet unconceived in the present: unknown to normal or abnormal perception of any mind; known only, it would seem, to some part of the human being which is not bounded either by space or time and for which the specious present is occasionally capable of indefinite expansion. It is only cases of this kind that I shall place in a final category.

The implications of this form of precognition are so perplexing and the evidence for it still so rare that, as I have said already, it is small wonder psychologists and philosophers have tacitly ignored it. But now that the effort to demonstrate extra-sensory perception is being made by laboratory experiments, and quantitative methods employed, it is certain this element of precognition will move into the picture which is gradually forming, of the being of man.

Dr. Rhine in the Preface to his remarkable book writes:

It is the more general purpose behind this work to push on with caution and proper systematisation into all the seriously alleged but strange phenomena of the human mind. By proceeding always from already organised territory out into the phenomena on trial, to discover, or to generalise, the field of these unrecognised mental occurrences can and will eventually be organised and internally systematised to a degree that will simply compel recognition. How long this may require one cannot estimate, but it is the only truly scientific course to take.

Without, therefore, attempting to advance anything on hypothesis it occurred to me that it might be of some collateral use were I to publish a few of the cases of precognition which I have come across. It must be realized that I am confining myself to cases I have myself investigated, although these form but a small part of the material available. None of the cases I include have been published before. They were, all but one, sent to me after a broadcast which I gave on precognition in 1934. I had a very large number of letters, and I have selected some of the best cases for investigation, and have included none which are not corroborated by one person, and sometimes by two or three, who heard of the prediction before fulfilment. I am well aware that any number of assembled cases will not necessarily carry conviction. In view, however, of the possibility of some form of laboratory investigation of such a faculty as precognition, if enough interest and enough money for more research were forthcoming, it has seemed an opportune moment to publish a few well attested cases. These may conceivably stimulate some people to offer their work in the inquiry, or, if they cannot do that, give money towards the many expenses involved in any long drawn out experimentation. These cases of prediction are, therefore, not printed merely as strange and perhaps impressive stories, but with the definite purpose of stimulating an interest in that scientific investigation of supernormal faculties of the mind, which is already beginning to show results pregnant with future discovery.



NOTE

I HAVE divided the cases of prediction which I have collected into four categories. The first consists of cases which might possibly be attributed to coincidence: the second of cases which could be accounted for by the action of telepathy but cannot be dismissed as examples of coincidence.

When Category III is attempted the difficulties of definition become greater. These cases certainly show foreknowledge of events beyond the normal reach of the person who makes the prediction, but it is possible that if such a complicated form of telepathy exists as can collect, combine and present the content of other minds for the definite purpose of prediction, then, and only then, can these examples of foreknowledge be ascribed to telepathy.

Category IV is a comparatively easy one to describe. It consists of cases which can only be classed as pre-cognitive, for these display knowledge of a future event which is not in the content, or in any combinations of contents, of a human mind. They cannot therefore be ascribed to telepathy between one living mind and another.

CATEGORY I

B



CASE 1

MR. FREEMAN'S DREAM ABOUT OUTRAM WINNING THE LINCOLN HANDICAP

The following is an instance of foreknowledge in the horse-racing category. I am interested in this case because Mr. Freeman has had other experiences of a very striking kind, showing that faculty of this sort may take various forms.

Blaby Road,
South Wepton,
Nr. Leicester
February 24th 1934

Dear Madam,

... Somewhere about the years 1911 to 1913 I dreamed that I visited Lincoln. The dream occurred in November, the event dreamed of transpired in the March following. I had not up to that time been interested in Horse Racing and did not know the names of the racehorses. In the dream I visited Lincoln Cathedral and remained so long inspecting the interior that on arriving at the racecourse I feared I had missed the first race. I inquired of a gentleman just leaving the course "Has racing started?" He replied, "Yes, over an hour ago and the big race (The Lincoln Handicap) is over and Outram has won it." Upon waking in the morning I outlined the dream to several of my friends and not until then did I know there was such a horse as Outram. This was in November and the list of entrants was not published until I think January of the New Year. In this list I saw the name of

Outram and in March the race was won by a horse of that name and rather long odds were laid against it.

Yours faithfully,
W. L. Freeman

I have traced the race and find it was run in March 1914. Mr. Freeman's dream, he says, occurred in November; he was not quite sure of the year. But the corroboration confirms that the dream was told many weeks before the event. I may mention that Mr. Freeman wrote of another very remarkable experience connected with a dream, also fully corroborated, but as it displayed knowledge of the past, not the future, I do not give it here, and only speak of it as evidence that different kinds of supernormal faculties can be exhibited by the same person.

I subsequently received a letter from Mrs. Freeman.

Corroboration

South Wigston,
August 20, 1934

Dear Madam,

Some years ago, probably over twenty years ago, Mr. W. L. Freeman related to me a dream he had. It was to the effect that Outram had won the Lincoln Handicap. The dream occurred in the latter part of the year previous to the race, and it came as a surprise to see the name Outram published in the list of horses. I do not think Mr. Freeman took any interest in racing at that time, which made the dream the more remarkable.

Yours sincerely,
Florence Freeman

CASE 2

MRS. LING'S IMPRESSION ABOUT
APRIL THE FIFTH WINNING THE DERBY

Another dream is about a winner of the Derby.

Holmwood,
Cromer
February, 1934

To the Broadcasting Co.
London.

I was very interested in the Lady on Friday who broadcast Dreams and I am telling you one of mine.

The year that April the Fifth won the Derby I was trying to win the prize offered for the first three horses in *Daily Express*, etc., newspapers. I had no tips and knew no one in the racing world to give me any, incidentally I did not win. I have occasionally put 1/- on horses I fancied but have never won anything except on the occasion which I am about to explain.

About a week before the race took place I was awoke early in the morning by a voice saying "April the Fifth will win the Derby." I saw no one in my dreams only heard the voice. I roused my husband to tell him. I also told people at the breakfast table and the morning before the race was won I spoke of it in a fishmonger's shop when several customers were present. I modestly put 1/- on the race myself and my husband and son did the same. We listened over the wireless in the afternoon. Another horse was in front for some seconds and then the man broadcasting exclaimed "April the Fifth is in it" and continued calling the name until it won. A most peculiar feeling almost making me faint was on me but almost immediately I burst into tears,

it all seemed so uncanny. I have had two distinct other dreams with the same voice waking me four years ago and about two months, but the one four years ago proved true, the other one has not had time to prove itself and they were over private matters.

My husband and son both well known in Cromer, will vouch for the truth of this and I could add several other names if necessary.

Yours faithfully,

G. Ling,

Ralph Ling, M.P.S.

R. E. Rowland Ling, M.P.S.

There are three other signatories besides the husband's which is repeated.

Further Corroborations

Market Place,

North Walsham

16th March, 1934

Dear Madam,

I was not only told of the dream on the Thursday morning previous to the day the Derby was run, viz., the following Wednesday—i.e. six days beforehand, but mentioned it to several friends, twenty or more, before the day of the race. The names of some I mentioned it to are appended.

Yours faithfully,

Ralph M. Ling, M.P.S.

R. Bowditch,

J. D. Abel,

R. Leamington

April the Fifth won the Derby in 1932 for Mr. Tom Walls. The jockey was F. Lane.

CASE 3

MISS WILLIS'S AUTOMATIC WRITING ABOUT
TRIGO, WINNER OF THE DERBY, 1929

This is an instance of a different method of tapping precognitive knowledge. Miss Willis writes :

Southwell Lodge,
Ipswich Road,
Norwich

March 5th, 1934

Dear Dame Edith Lyttelton,

. . . I now send you the following.

On June 4th 1929 I was much absorbed in trying to produce a photograph in colour on paper in a process which required my closest attention. I was held up for ten minutes or so while something had to dry. Being interested in psychic matters and remembering that the following day was the Derby I thought now was the time for an experiment. I took up a pencil and waited if perchance the name of the winner might appear. I was quite ignorant of the name of any horse and when Trigo appeared it seemed to me quite meaningless. However I then found a list of horses in the newspaper with the name Trigo among them, with the odds of thirty-two against him. I told the members of my household and others of my experience and the following morning when a friend called who wished to back a horse I told her I was sure Trigo would win and we each put 5/- on him, this being as far as I am concerned, the only time I have ever betted on a horse race. Trigo justified my psychic experiment by coming in first and my friend and I were each handed over £8. I think it is of interest to note that

caring nothing about horse racing I had not consciously either read or heard the names of any of the horses, not even the name of the favourite, nor should I have been likely to have heard the race discussed among my circle of acquaintances. After the event I looked up back newspapers to see if by any chance I might not have seen the name Trigo and forgotten it. This of course is not impossible but improbable, as being such an outsider his name was difficult to find anywhere. Anyhow I feel quite sure I had neither seen nor heard anything to suggest Trigo would come in first.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Edith L. Willis (Miss)

Corroboration

Miss Willis, J.P. wrote at the bottom of the above letter:

I verify this,

Mary Willis, J.P.

Trigo won the Derby in 1929 for Mr. W. Barnett. The jockey was J. Marshall.

CASE 4

MRS. EDGHILL'S IMPRESSION ABOUT
THE FOOTBALL CUP FINAL

This prediction concerns football and the same general considerations apply as to races. I therefore include it in the first Category.

I can personally supply the corroboration of the prediction now to be described. I received the following letter from Mrs. Edghill:

173 Christchurch Road,
Kenton, Middlesex
24.2.34

Dear Madam,

After hearing your interesting broadcast last evening I feel I must write and tell you of a curious premonition or forecast that has been mine for the past three years.

Some time in January of each year (I also experienced the same thing a month ago) while glancing down a list of Football teams, it is as though a voice mentions a name and it goes through my head, and on each occasion I have told my husband that team would win the Cup Tie. I have successfully forecast this event on each of the last three Cup Ties, and the last two have even given the score correctly before the match has been played through. I told my husband last month that Manchester City would be in the Cup Final this season and so far they appear to be favoured for the position I forecast. I do not seem to have any indication of the score until the day of the match, when during last year's broadcast of the game I told my husband and a friend with whom we were listening in, the names of the men who would score the goals. I would like to point out that I am not a football "fan." I just take a casual interest in that particular sport but it always seems about some time in January that I develop an interest in the game. . . .

Yours faithfully,
(Mrs.) Elsie Edghill

I wrote to Mrs. Edghill begging her if she had another impression of the kind to write it down and get her husband to initial it. This year, 1936, I wrote again and asked whether she had been right about Manchester City being in the Cup Final of 1934, and I received her assurance that her prediction described to me on the 24th February, 1934 was correct.

27 Harley Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex
Friday, April 17th 1936

Dear Madam,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., for which I tender my thanks. Yes, I was correct in giving my forecast of Manchester City for the Cup Final of 1934. . . . I asked my husband what he thought of this team's prospects and he was not so keen on them to say they would win the Final. He was doubtful as they made progress but was watching results keenly knowing how I had forecast two previous Finals with success.

I have ascertained that the match for the Cup Final in which Manchester City won, was played on April 28th, 1934, in which Portsmouth was beaten two to one. This was weeks after I had received the prediction.

CASE 5

MR. ROBINSON'S DREAM ABOUT
HIS DOG BEING KILLED

180 Lozells Road,
Birmingham, 19
February 24th 1934

Dear Madam,

I would like to express my keen interest in your broadcast last night. The following was an experience of my own and can be vouched for by my wife and daughter.

A few years ago I owned a valuable dog; it was the practice of my daughter to take it each morning out for a walk; on the morning in question, I related at the breakfast table, a vivid dream I had during the night, it was that my daughter had taken the dog for its walk and it had got run over and killed. I was so impressed myself that I advised her not to take the dog out that morning; however she did so, but had not been away long before she rushed home screaming: the dog has been killed. It had been run over by a motor lorry and killed in just the way I had seen in my dream. . . .

Yours faithfully,
T. Robinson

Mr. Robinson was written to once or twice for his wife's and daughter's corroboration, but no answer was received. The letters may have been lost, for in April 1936 I wrote once more and was interested to receive a letter from Mrs. Strain, Mr. Robinson's daughter. Both gave me permission to use the story with their real names.

Corroboration

95 Blake Road,
West Bridgford
Notts.
8.8.36

Dear Madam,

I have received your letter from my father and am prepared to corroborate his statements.

Many years ago my father dreamed that I had taken his dog for a walk during which it was run down and killed. He related his dream at the breakfast table. Later during the morning – quite forgetting the dream – I took the dog out and he was killed by a lorry exactly as my father described. This I recalled after recovering from the shock. I am quite prepared for you to publish my name.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothea A. Strain, B.A.

One cannot help the surmise that possibly if the dog had not been taken out that morning he might not have been killed. Yet as the incident cannot be ascribed to telepathy of any kind, it must either be ascribed to precognition or to coincidence.

CASE 6

MRS. BROWN'S DREAM OF A LOOSE SHOE ON HER HORSE

The trivial nature of the following premonitory dream is interesting. The detail is exact and reads

as if the dreamer had already been through her experience.

Fernhill,
Bothwell,
Lanarkshire
February 28th 1934

Dear Madam,

I have just read your very interesting article in the "Listener" for the 28th February; and as you ask anyone who has had any experiences outside the ordinary to tell you about them, I am sending you the following:

I dreamt one night that I was coming home from a ride, and pulling my horse up to go down a steep hill I heard the click of a loose shoe, and looking down I saw that my horse's near hind shoe was loose. As I did so a man walking on the pavement came up to me and told me that there was a blacksmith's forge at the bottom of the hill where I could get my horse shod. I rode on, found the forge and after having my horse re-shod rode home. At breakfast I told my people of the dream, I don't know why, as there was nothing in it. I forgot all about it, and the same afternoon when coming home from my ride pulled up at a steep hill to walk down, when I heard the loose click of the shoe. I at once recalled my dream of the night before, especially as the road looked familiar although I don't remember having been on it before. The man on the pavement came and told me of the forge at the bottom of the hill where I had my horse re-shod, exactly as in my dream. When I got home I told my people that my dream had come true to every particular.

Yours faithfully,
Isabel R. Brown

I wrote asking if the dreamer had told anyone of her prevision before its fulfilment.

Fernhill,
Bothwell,
Lanarkshire
August 20th 1934

Dear Madam,

Many thanks for your letter of the 22nd. I am glad that my dream of the horse shoe interested you. Please make any use of it you like, mentioning my name if you wish to. I have written to a sister asking her if she remembers the incident and if so to write a few lines corroborating it. If she does, I will send on the note to you. In my first letter to you I think I mentioned that I had told the dream to my people at breakfast time before going for the ride and afterwards as well. My mother, who died some years ago would have remembered, as she was very interested. I think one must have a special memory of anything unusual, as I remember the whole thing as distinctly as though it had happened yesterday.

Yours very truly,
Isabel R. Brown

Corroboration

121 St. George's Square
London, S.W.1
August 30th

I distinctly recall the fact of my sister telling the family of her dream at the breakfast table before she went for her ride that day.

B. I. Cragg

CASE 7

MRS. THOMPSON'S MIND PICTURE

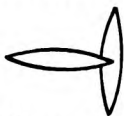
The methods by which prevision is conveyed to consciousness are always deeply interesting. Dreams are perhaps the most common, but sometimes there is an auditory impression of a voice (as in the Ling case) sometimes of a picture (as in the Meopham case on page 136) sometimes a symbolic mental image which recurs. The following instance is one of this kind and the interest lies not so much in the actual image, as in the fact that the image was repeated the correct number of times.

12 Shenley Road,
Dartford, Kent
25.2.34

Dear Madam,

In reference to last Friday's broadcast on 'Inquiry into the Unknown' and to comply with the invitation to write to you about any experiences on the subjects set forth, I would like to tell you of several out of very many I've experienced over the past years. If it will in the least little bit help I shall be glad.

Many years ago, I think about thirty, I had a vision, or dream, as some would say, of two ships in collision and the position of the one into the other (roughly so). It was all so very distinct and clearly I heard someone telling me I should see it announced in the daily paper in two weeks time. In the *Daily Mail* about three weeks after the vision, there was a picture of the two ships exactly as I had seen. I kept the paper picture by me for



years, for the fulfillment of the vision made a vivid impression and troubled me greatly also as I could not understand the why or wherefore of it.

Very frequently I have visions during an afternoon's rest and sometimes symbols are shown which are rather curious. I see a black-edged envelope, at least the back of it thus ☐, then I know that soon I shall hear of a passing over. Sometimes it is shown in a cloudy whiteness, other times in a foggy mist, which I have learnt to denote as the passing of a good person when the whiteness is there. Last summer it was very strange. I saw four of the symbols side by side thus ☐☐☐☐. They were in brilliant sunshine and what looked to me like white mountains. Soon after came the tragic news of the four masters of Eton whilst Alp climbing. Why I should see signs of a passing of people I do not know and never likely to meet I do not understand at all. But they just happen, unbidden and unexpectedly.

May I say in closing what a great pleasure it was to listen to your Talk. The B.B.C. is indeed to be congratulated on the series of such talks and I hope with very many others that we may hear more in the future. That is the earnest desire of this listener.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours obediently,

(Mrs.) Emily Thompson

I wrote and asked if corroboration could be got and received this letter from Mrs. Thompson:

Corroboration

12 Shenley Road,
Dartford, Kent
7th September, 1934

Dear Madam,

I apologise for not replying to your letter of the 22nd August. I was away from home from August 19th until yesterday the 6th and the other inmates of No. 12 also away, and no letters were able to be sent on to me.

The vision referred to in the letter which was very vivid, as I took it for a warning that it was meant for some of the members of the family that I told my daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bailey, at No. 14 Shenley Road (next door) about it next morning and expressed my fear that it referred to the family. I remembered her remark "It cannot mean us, as we are only three", meaning her husband, the child and herself. As none of my family here are interested in such matters I did not say any more. I did mention it to another friend who is interested, but cannot recollect whether it was before or after the accident and at the moment I cannot see her to ask if she remembers. I may see her next week if that will not be too late.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) Emily Thompson

14 Shenley Road,
Dartford, Kent
12th September, 1934

Dear Madam,

I remember my mother-in-law, Mrs. Thompson, telling me one morning of a vision, or dream, she had of four black-edged envelopes in a row side by side and

thinking it might mean a loss in the family. I remarked it could not mean us, as we were only three.

I am, yours faithfully,

A. S. Bailey

The letter itself shows that the 'vision' was described before the accident.

I wrote again in 1936 as it seemed possible the picture of the four black-edged envelopes, though it came to her before Mrs. Thompson knew of the accident, might have been a contemporary telepathic impression of the accident as it was happening or had just happened though not then known to the public. I received this reply:

59 Sussex Road,
Dartford, Kent
16.4.36

Dear Madam,

Your letter of the 14th was sent on to me, as I have removed from 12 Shenley Road to the above address. In reference to the question re the symbol of the black-edged envelopes, to the best of my recollection it was on the Friday night or early Saturday morning "the vision" about a week or a few days before the tragedy. The exact date of which I do not remember as I do not keep account of the actual happenings. I am very happy to be of the slightest assistance in such a cause, and realise the importance of the truth in all details of such experiences. As I have read some of your writings I know there is nothing frivolous in any enquiry it may please you to make.

Yours obediently,
(Mrs.) Emily Thompson

The daughter-in-law's corroboration confirms, as far as it goes, that the accident was not known of at the time. It happened on August 17th, 1933, and I find that the 17th was a Friday. Mrs. Thompson says that she told her daughter-in-law of the vision next morning, who then made the same comment as is reported, that the vision could not refer to them for they were only three in family. It is unlikely that the accident, if it had happened simultaneously with Mrs. Thompson's vision, would not have been reported by next day, though it is possible she might not have seen the paper. The idea that it referred to one of her family was strongly in her mind and influenced her to tell her daughter-in-law of it. When some days later, according to her own account, she read of the accident she only then connected it with the four Eton masters killed on the Alps.

I can imagine most people would say that the connection is much too vague to be of any importance, but even discounting Mrs. Thompson's impression about 'white mountains' for that may have been added unconsciously, I think the case is a good instance of prediction, owing to the correct number of deaths being given in the symbol. Symbols become a code for certain people of which they know the key. Supernormal communications are often conveyed by symbols. I have, however, placed the case in Category I as attributable to coincidence.

COMMENTS ON CATEGORY I

It can be asked why I trouble to print predictions which I admit may be due to coincidence. Among the seven cases I present, four are predictions about races or games, usually about the winning horse or side. Obviously the chances of coincidence are much greater when there is a limited area of possibilities.

There may also be thousands of cases of race or game predictions, as of other kinds, which have proved wrong. There is no way of estimating these: they are of course easily forgotten and rarely recorded. Yet there seems some warrant for placing these cases of dreams and impressions in a different class from ordinary cases of coincidence. Another element than that of a simple chance coincidence obtrudes itself.

(1) Miss Willis (Case 3), for instance, tries deliberately to learn the name of the Derby winner by automatic writing. Not knowing the names of any of the horses running that year, she gets Trigo, a horse's name possibly in many people's minds. The fact that the horse whose name she obtained won its race can be ascribed to coincidence, but although the acquisition of the name itself could have been picked up by telepathy from some mind, another coincidence would have to be invoked to explain the emergence of the name Trigo *as a winner*. If one coincidence is possible so, of course, are two, but the explanation of chance is necessarily weakened even though not demolished.

(2) There is also the experience of Mr. Freeman (Case 1) who, not knowing the names of racehorses,

dreamed in November that Outram won the Lincoln Handicap, which it did in the following March. He says he told the dream to several of his friends and did not know till then that such a horse as Outram existed. The list of entrants was not published till the January following the dream. It is difficult to ascribe this case to telepathy alone, or to precognition alone, for the reasons already given, and so I have placed it under the category of coincidence.

There is a further consideration. Some of these cases of impression have a vivid and authoritative effect not felt in ordinary dreams or impressions. Take for instance the case of Mr. Robinson and his dog (Case 5). His dream was so vivid that he advised his daughter not to take the dog out for a walk that morning. He did not succeed in impressing her, and the dog was killed.

Again Mrs. Ling (Case 2) has an auditory impression about April the Fifth winning the Derby vivid enough for her to rouse her husband then and there and tell him. She says she also told several other people in the course of the morning. Coincidence is, of course, possible but again the vivid and coercive effect of an impression differentiates it from the general run of impressions and dreams.

Mr. G. N. M. Tyrrell summarizes the argument which would explain the cases in Category I by chance as follows: 'The number of dreams and impressions occurring to people is legion and among so vast a number there must be a few chance hits which taken alone would seem very striking. These only are remembered while the rest are forgotten; and so you get a set of cases which you falsely imagine to be precognitive, but which are really only the cream of the coincidences which are due to natural chance.'

'Very well,' he continues, 'If we accept this argument, all the cases recorded in your book are a fair sample of *ordinary* dreams and impressions, and the insistent, compelling character which the percipients describe in most cases (about 80 per cent) must be characteristic of *ordinary* non-veridical dreams and impressions in about the same proportion. Are they?' I think almost everyone will agree that most of their dreams and impressions do not compel them either to report the substance or to take action. The retort that some people always have vivid dreams does not affect the position because, to quote Mr. Tyrrell again, 'The argument that these cases are due solely to chance is based on the assumption that everyone's dreams are alike, and that is why the field for chance is so wide.'

It is these considerations which have led me to include some of the Category I cases even though the argument about the predictions being accounted for by chance is fairly strong.

I shall comment again later on the element of compulsion to action in some dreams and impressions.

CATEGORY II

CASES WHICH COULD PLAUSIBLY BE EXPLAINED BY TELEPATHY BUT NOT BY COINCIDENCE

IN this Category I have placed four examples of race predictions because owing to correct details being given they can hardly be ascribed to coincidence alone. Telepathy, however, may account for the impressions when it is borne in mind that as in the cases already described in Category I, the field for foreknowledge is a restricted one and also one over which many minds are playing within a prescribed time. The cause of a true prediction might therefore be telepathy from other minds which may either have private, even fraudulent knowledge of the chances, or possess a special gift for estimating the capabilities of this or that horse.



CASE 1

MISS ISHERWOOD'S IMPRESSIONS AND MIND PICTURE ABOUT BOTH AINTREE AND MANCHESTER CUP RACE

The following prediction about the winning horses has a special feature because the information came in the form of mind pictures symbolizing the name and owner.

28 Hampton Road,
Southport
February 25th 1934

Dear Madam,

Many years ago I resided within a few miles of Aintree and most people in the neighbourhood were very interested in trying to guess which horse would win. On the evening before the race was to be run I was thinking about it when in my mind's eye I saw a horse's head which was black and it was decorated with red ribbon. Rubio was the winner of the race, his jockey I believe was the owner, and his coat was black and his cap red.

There was another jockey also riding in the same race whose coat was red and his cap black, but Rubio was my choice which proved to be the winner. A few weeks later I wondered if I could find the winner of the Manchester Cup race and on thinking it over I had a mind picture of the grand stand and the winner whose jockey wore a tunic of blue and white check and cerise cap. Colonel Hall Walker's horse Polar Star won the race, and the above were Colonel Hall Walker's

racing colours. Later I got a mind picture of a horse swimming which had a bright star on its forehead. A short time afterwards it was in the news that Polar Star had been sent out abroad. I believe to South America.

As to Colonel Hall Walker's racing colours, I would like to mention that in my mind's eye the blue and white check appeared to be quite small and neat but I afterwards discovered that the real check was quite large and bold. I cannot account for this visionary difference.

At another time, previous to the foregoing, I got the impression that a horse whose name was something like Murphy would win the Grand National Steeplechase, but there was not anything in the race we could find like the sound of Murphy; anyhow, after the race we found out the winner was named Moiffa, which pronunciation was similar to Murphy.

These experiences occurred very many years ago and appeared to be a temporary gift of foresight, as nothing like them has happened since, but nearly three years ago, when we were having tea one Sunday afternoon, I happened to look towards the door of the room, and although it was closed I saw my father and mother standing there as though they had come to see us. This was a strange occurrence, as my parents had been dead many years. I may say that although I have had these experiences in the past, my real interest has been in the study of the science of Astrology.

Yours truly,

(Miss) Emily Isherwood

The mechanism by which the information about Rubio and Polar Star was obtained is especially

interesting. Some people are apparently more able to receive an impression through the symbolism of a mind picture than in any other way.¹ In this case Miss Isherwood saw the colours to be worn by the jockey of the winning horse and so traced its name. The same method was used successfully twice, once for Rubio and once for Polar Star. Notice also that Miss Isherwood saw a mind picture of a horse swimming with a star on its forehead and that Polar Star was sent to America. I am not claiming that this last was a case of precognition for I have not tried to get corroboration and Miss Isherwood did not give the date of her mind picture. The interest lies in its symbolism, whether it was a case of precognition or of telepathy.

I wrote asking for corroboration and received the following:

Corroboration

28 Hampton Road,
Southport

August 27th 1934

I am writing to corroborate the statement of my aunt, Miss Emily Isherwood, as to the mental impression or waking vision she received on the eve of the race for the Grand National steeplechase. I was with my aunt at the time and remember that she was seated before the fire on the evening before the race, not asleep or reading but just resting, when she looked up and said that she would like to see the jockeys' colours in the list of probable starters for the race, as she had an impression of a black horse's head trimmed with red ribbon and thought that the colours of the winner would be black and red. There was another horse in the race whose colours were more red than black but she was

¹ Vide Case of Mrs. Thompson p. 31, Mrs. Hanson p. 69.

quite determined that the colours carried by Rubio were the ones indicated to her. I remember quite distinctly that this occurred the evening before the race, that the colours chosen were black and red and that Rubio won next day carrying these colours.

Ethel B. Isherwood

28 Hampton Road,
Southport,
August 27th 1934

Dear Madam,

I thank you for your letter of August 22nd and also for your previous acknowledgment of my letter regarding your broadcast talk on premonition.

In reply to your query as to whether I related my impressions beforehand, I told the members of my family, namely my brother, sister and niece about Rubio, and a friend who was in the house at the time also heard of it before the race. This friend died about 18 months ago. I am enclosing the testimony of my relations, which I trust will be sufficient for your purpose.

As to my impression about Polar Star for the Manchester Cup, the same relatives heard of the event before the race.

In the case of Moifaa, my brother and sister knew about it before the race.

Please note that in my previous letter to you I spelled the name of the horse Moiffa, but have since discovered that Moifaa is correct. The year in which Moifaa won the Grand National was 1904. I believe Rubio and Polar Star won their races in 1908, but this can easily be verified by reference to the racing records.

I have no objection to your using this information in your proposed lecture, also my name if you so desire. I am very pleased to know that my experiences have been of interest to you.

Yours truly,
(Miss) Emily Isherwood

We, the undersigned, distinctly remember that the above premonitions occurred before the races were run.

Margaret Isherwood
Harry Isherwood

A. T. Bentley of Vancouver also corroborates as he used the information.

Moifaa won the Grand National in 1904.

I have ascertained from the papers of 1908 that the Grand National was run on March 27th, that Rubio belonged to Major Douglas-Tennant, and that his colours worn by the jockey were black with red sleeves and red cap.

The Manchester Cup was won by Polar Star on June 12th, 1908, and belonged to Colonel Hall Walker. His colours were blue and white check and a cerise cap.

This case, for various reasons already given as generally governing predictions about races, should not be classed at once as precognitive; it can on the other hand, hardly be attributed entirely to coincidence. It is possible that the real cause of the foreknowledge was telepathy, and for that reason I have placed it in Category II.

CASE 2

MRS. BARRETT'S DREAMS ABOUT
THE DERBY AND HYPERION

The Derby is a race which seems to stimulate pre-cognitive faculty, for here is another instance :

Sunspot,
656 Shirley Road,
Hall Green
Birmingham
24.2.34

Dear Madam,

. . . I have personally had several experiences of this nature, which my husband can verify.

1. A dream warning me of the death of two relatives – one in Canada, the other living some distance away.

2. A dream (in 1909) foretelling a coming war with Germany when missiles would be dropped from the air.

3. I foretold (how I do not know) the exact day and date of my daughter's birth.

4. Last year I told my husband the name (or rather the first three letters of the name) of the winning horse for the Grand National some weeks before the list of horses for that race was published.

If you are at all interested in any of these instances I shall be glad to give you full details of same.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) D. M. Barrett

Mrs. Barrett was written to and asked if she would give details of her dreams, and she then sent the following letter, which I transcribe in full :

Sunspot,
656 Shirley Road,
Hall Green
Birmingham
15-3-34

Dear Madam,

As requested I herewith send full details of the premonitions referred to in my last letter.

The first, namely the dream foretelling the death of two relatives, I had when I was not more than 14 years old. In the dream I thought it was "All Hallows Eve" (by the way, I had not even heard of the name at that time) and a gathering of friends and relations were gathered round the fire in a large and un-known house, talking. We were exceedingly loth to retire for the night as we had been told that we had to sleep each in a separate room, and at midnight 3 apparitions were to pass through each room. If any person screamed when these visitations took place it would mean a death in the family. The first apparition was that of a stag which simply rushed through the room—no scream was heard this time. The second was that of a mad bull which bellowed furiously—this time one person screamed. The third was that of a draped figure "death," which touched each person on the forehead with a cold and clammy hand as it passed through the room—it was truly a horrible sensation and that time I screamed myself.

I was too much afraid of ridicule at the time to mention this dream, but it is as fresh to me to-day as when it happened. The next morning my mother had a letter from Canada stating that my uncle who was living there had fallen down dead on his way home in the evening. Shortly afterwards we had news of the death of my grandmother.

The second dream foretelling the war with Germany I had when I was 19 years old, in 1909. I was at that time at the Training College at Salisbury. I wrote of the dream to my husband (then my fiancé) as it seemed so extraordinary. He kept the letter for some years, but unfortunately it is now destroyed.

I dreamed that we were at my home near Bournemouth and people were very much disturbed at the news of a war with Germany. Later it seemed that we were hiding in a disused shed which was at the bottom of the garden – not from soldiers or battle as one would naturally have imagined it in those days, but from something coming down from the air with loud explosions. We were actually in many air-raids during the first part of the War before my husband “joined up,” as we were then living in Thanet near the N. Foreland lighthouse, and thus this dream in a way was fulfilled.

The foretelling of the actual date of the birth of my daughter happened during conversation with my husband – it seemed as though the words were forced from me without any will of my own in the matter. The foretelling of the winning horse happened in the same way during a conversation with my husband.

I hope you will find these instances interesting and of some use to you.

Yours faithfully,
(Mrs.) D. M. Barrett

I will deal with the prediction about Hyperion, for Mr. Barrett kindly sent the following letter:

Corroboration

656 Shirley Road,
Hall Green,
Birmingham
1.9.34

Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 30th ult to my wife, I am writing to confirm the statement made by Mrs. Barrett that she told me the first three letters of the winner of the Derby last year. Some considerable time before the date of the race I asked her in a joking way what would be the name of the winner, and she replied that the first three letters of its name would be P.H.Y. (not necessarily in that order). When the list of horses was published it contained the name Hyperion, which of course proved to be the winner.

It appears from your letter that my wife gave the name of the race as the Grand National, but it was in fact the Derby - which proves that she has no racing knowledge which would make the prophesy more understandable.

Yours faithfully,

J. P. Barrett

It is a great pity Mr. Barrett does not still possess the letter foretelling the war with Germany. As the dream happened so long ago I have merely added this instance to the recent one about Hyperion as an evidence of Mrs. Barrett's faculty.

The dream which Mrs. Barrett relates first is an interesting example of dream symbolism. Had the prediction been corroborated I might have used it, assigning it to Category No. 1 as due to coincidence. The second dream in 1909 about a war with Germany might per-

haps also be ascribed to coincidence. That prediction is corroborated by her husband, but even in 1909 people were fearing war, and many must have envisaged the possible use of bombing from the air. When to these examples is added the race prediction it seems unlikely that all three dream fulfilments were due simply to coincidence. I have placed them, therefore, in Category II as possibly due to telepathy.

Hyperion won the Derby in 1933 for Lord Derby. The jockey was T. Weston.

CASE 3

MR. CULLEN'S DREAM ABOUT WINDSOR LAD WINNING THE DERBY

I am placing this case under Category II because the corroborated prediction concerned a death, and any foretelling connected with health is very probably caused by a telepathic impression. It is possible that Mr. Cullen knew consciously or unconsciously that the Manager of the Arsenal Football Club was ill. I have, however, included the whole correspondence which also refers to a race prediction.

Hanham Hall Farm,
Hanham, Bristol

23.2.34

Dear Madam,

I was very interested in your talk to-night on Premonition and Prevision, having had some remarkable experiences myself, mostly in dreaming of future events

which come true, these are in the main concerning my own future life but with occasional exceptions.

Three weeks before the death of Mr. Herbert Chapman, manager of the Arsenal Football Club, I dreamt of the event and told my workmate of my dream next morning.

I should class dreams into three classes (1) Nightmares or bad dreams following poor health or illness, etc. (2) Dreams which taken symbolically is most certainly a sure warning. (3) Dreams which come true to detail. I can mostly pick the "wheat from the chaff" but the one thing I do not know is the time between the dream and the fact, in some cases years, or as in one case within minutes. . . .

Yours faithfully,

Archie Cullen

Mr. Cullen subsequently sent me the signature of his workmate, Mr. William Cook:

Corroboration

Hanham Hall Farm,
Hanham, Bristol
26.8.34

Dear Madam,

. . . With regard to me dreaming of Mr. H. Chapman's death and telling of same before fulfilment I am asking my workmate to sign this letter as proof of same. I also dreamt on the morning of the race for the Derby of Windsor Lad which I also told of before fulfilment.

Yours faithfully,

Archie Cullen
William Cook

P.S.—You may use this letter as you please.

I had been expecting to have a possible case of telepathy confirmed but found I had bagged what looked like a real piece of race prediction. On this I wrote again and Mr. Cullen was kind enough to send the following reply:

Corroboration

Hanham Hall Farm,
Hanham, Bristol
3.9.34

Dear Madam,

I thank you for your letter dated August 28th.

With regard to my dreaming of Windsor Lad winning the Derby and telling of same before it happened, I am asking my parents (whom I live with) to sign this letter as proof of same.

I might add that hardly a week passes without something happening concerning myself which I had dreamt of before.

Yours faithfully,
Archie Cullen

Signed by:

Samuel Cullen
Rose Cullen

The Derby of 1934 was won by a horse called Windsor Lad. As Mr. Cullen said he often received impressions in dreams and would perhaps send me some before fulfilment, I am hoping he will not forget to do so.

If this example stood alone it might have been due to coincidence, but in view of the other impression I have included it in Category II as possibly due to telepathy.

CASE 4

MISS ANDERSON'S¹ DREAM ABOUT
CHOCOLATES BEING WRONGLY PACKED

The writer of the following letter gave me permission to use the story of her experiences if I did not reveal her real name and address. I have therefore filed them. Miss Anderson¹ related one or two premonitions in dreams and impressions. I have chosen one which seems to have an element of precognition in it.

February 26, 1934

Dear Madam,

I must say we all enjoyed your talk on Friday last "Inquiry into the Unknown: Premonition and Prevision."

I have had lots of experiences in dreams and other ways myself so will try and explain a few to you.

When in business I had about 30 to 40 girls to look after while they were packing chocolates. One night I had a dream about the chocolates all getting mixed up. I felt so restless about this. Next morning while sitting writing at my desk about 9 o'clock I was greatly impressed to go to X who was packing the best assortment and ask her how she was getting on (looking at her packing at the same time). I was surprised to see that she was packing with the jellies out of the cheapest assortment in mistake for gingers of the best kind, although she was on the third 2 lb. box she had never noticed herself that they were mixed. She said "What made you come to me?" I said "I dreamt about chocolates being mixed last night, then I was impressed to come to you."

¹ Substitute name.

Corroboration

6.9.34

Dear Madam,

I remember Miss Anderson telling me that she had a dream that the chocolates were being mixed wrongly.

Yours faithfully,

Dolly Gamble ¹

Of course it is possible the girl X had packed wrongly before and that her unconscious mind conveyed this to Miss Anderson in a dream. If so, this might be a case of telepathy.

CASE 5

MISS MUDIE'S DREAM OF A MURDER

The following story relates the impression of a murder to be committed a few weeks later.

Braemar,
Downs Road,
Seaford, Sussex
February 24th 1934

Dear Madam,

We were greatly interested in your B.B.C. broadcast last night and we decided that my premonitory dream might be the sort of thing you asked us to record to you. So I am sending it for what it is worth.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) H. N. Mudie

In the year 1912 my friend Margaret Strachan and I were joint Principals of New Brighton High School

¹Substitute name.

near Birkenhead. At the end of the Christmas term about December 20th we happened to be sharing a bedroom. In the morning when I awoke I said to her: "I have just had a most vivid dream, I thought someone came to me and said, 'There has been a murder in the Victoria Hotel and the murderer slept in your house.' " Now the Victoria Hotel, New Brighton was directly opposite our school house.

As we were then planning to go off on holiday and shut up the house I felt somewhat perturbed. Some three weeks later, while we were together at Eastbourne, Miss Strachan came into my room one morning with the New Brighton local paper in her hand. She exclaimed "Here is the explanation of your dream."

There, in the paper, was the account of the shooting of a maid employed at the Victoria Hotel, New Brighton - by her sweetheart who afterwards shot himself.

The girl's brother gave evidence at the inquest that the murderer had said he would shoot her because she had given him up. The point is that the murder was premeditated. Now did my subconscious mind contact the mind of the culprit when he was planning to kill the girl?

The shooting did not actually take place in the hotel itself but on the sandhills just below.

My dream at least foretold (a) a murder, (b) associated with the Victoria Hotel, and there is just the possibility that the murderer found shelter somewhere around our house as he was watching for the girl to come out.

Signed. Annie Howie Mudie
Margaret Strachan

Miss Mudie kindly gave the names of papers likely to have reported such a murder. A search has been made and it was found that the *Wallasey News* of January 8th, 1913, reported the murder, which occurred on January 6th. From this it appears that the girl's name was Ruby Jones and she was a barmaid at the Hotel Victoria. The man's name was Harold Foster Farrar. They were found on the shore at New Brighton. The man had shot the girl and then himself.

Miss Mudie's dream has one point of great interest – the direct connection with the Victoria Hotel. I have placed it in Category II because Miss Mudie's own suggestion that it might be telepathy from the murderer may be correct.

CATEGORY III

CASES WHICH MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTED TO
TELEPATHY OF AN EXTENDED AND COMPLI-
CATED KIND BUT WOULD BE MORE EASILY
ATTRIBUTED TO PRECOGNITION

CASE 1

MR. HARMER GREEN'S¹ SERIES OF DREAMS ABOUT A DEATH

If only more people would make as careful notes and provide for corroboration as effectively as Mr. Harmer Green, the task of collection and analysis would be much easier.

In March 1934 the following letter reached the office of the Society for Psychical Research:

2nd March, 1934

Madam,

I have hesitated to write because I object to publicity in this matter and the risk of ridicule. However I was so impressed with the serious way in which you treated the question of premonition, that I decided to tell you of one of my experiences in which I am sure you will be interested.

When dreams or premonitions come unsought, one cannot help it, but I always discourage the subject as I am of opinion that danger definitely starts when one tries to voluntarily see into the future in this way. If it comes unwilling you cannot help it, but if you try to peer into the unknown, one's imagination could easily run away with reason.

However each time I have had a premonition fulfilled I have always wished I had written it down beforehand, and so when a strong series came in

¹Substitute name.

September 1928, I told my wife about them and then – I do not know what prompted me to do so – but I scribbled off a brief note of them, put it into an envelope *which I sealed with another person's seal, which incidentally I could not have very well subsequently procured* and posted it to myself to get the postmark!

When the event foreshadowed came to pass I realized the importance of this letter which I had written. I hesitated to open it myself, and after I had got over the trouble, I took it to a solicitor and got him to open and certify it had not been tampered with.

I enclose a copy of the letter which is on the table as I write and should be pleased to show you the original if you would like to see it, but shrink from publicity in the matter and am sending it to you for your purely personal interest.

I would not like to send the letter by post but would show it to you here by appointment in the evening or bring it to you if in London.

Yours faithfully,

Frank B. Harmer Green

Statement of Mr. Harmer Green which he sent through the post addressed to himself:

Copy of memo I wrote and posted to myself:

I sometimes have strange vivid dreams usually before I go to sleep just between waking and sleeping as it were, and when I do they always prove correct and come true.

On Monday I dreamed most vividly in this way, I saw a grave being dug and received a telegram. I glanced at the telegram and saw the word "heart" and

then the shock of it seemed to waken me. I told my wife about it.

On Tuesday I had an exactly similar dream and this time saw myself tending the grave.

On Wednesday I had a horrible dream of the same nature (a vivid half-awake affair) about insects on a table which I explained to my wife and daughter.

On Thursday I had the same dream and I told them and we laughed over it, but it had a sort of unsettling depressing effect on myself. On Friday we heard for the first time Harold,¹ my son at school, then, was ill and I was most worried because of my "grave" dreams. When I went to bed I again saw a man digging a hole in my mother's garden at Chelswood Terrace; I wondered why he was digging it in the grass and suddenly realized it was the grave digger and the hole was that peculiar shape. The shock of the realization again awakened me and I felt (in the dark stillness of the night) most worried about Harold, when I had the sensation someone was trying to show me something and clear as crystal I saw a certificate. The column to which my attention appeared to be trying to be drawn had the number 79 in it and I realized this was the age and therefore did not refer to Harold.

On top of the above-and-over letter is the following note:

This memorandum was opened by me on the 1st November, 1928. The postmark on the envelope was 22nd September, 1928, and the envelope had not been tampered with.

J. R. S. Parmoor²

¹ and ² Substitute names.

Note by Mr. Harmer Green. Mr. Parmoor is a very well-known solicitor at X and son of the Town Clerk.

Mr. Parmoor has also signed the envelope:

'Opened by me.' J. R. S. Parmoor.

1st November, 1928

On Sunday, October 14th my brother dashed into my house and said, "Mother has had a *heart* attack and is sinking fast."

She died on October 15th, 1928.

I was not aware she had any real heart trouble and neither was anyone else as far as I know.

With regard to the insect dream I did not realize the significance of this at the time or I would have written it out more fully of course, *but I told my wife all about it at the time* and just made a brief note in my letter to myself.

The dream was that I stood in front of what appeared to be a bench or table covered with a white cloth, with a bright light shining on it. It had upon it horrible insects, snakes, shiny reptiles and things like that and they were in danger of falling over on to the floor. My task was to put them on again into the middle and prevent them sliding off. I would again point out I told my wife and daughter about it at the time.

In my dream I did it but it was a most unpleasant job and I did not like thinking about it.

However when my mother passed away the nurse who was attending to her remains came and asked my brother and myself to go quickly and help her as the body was slipping off the bed. We dashed in and instantly I was flashed back as it were to the dream I had almost forgotten, for the clean white sheet spread over the bed with the bed-light streaming down on it

looked exactly like the tablecloth on the table and there was mother nearly fallen off the edge and my task was to put her back again in the middle. It can be realized that my feelings were exactly the same in putting the body of poor mother back, as I had in pushing back the insects and things.

The one thing which is wrong is the age. Mother was 82 years old. But here again there are peculiarities, for I always thought I told people she was over 80 during her life – it never occurred to me she was any younger. But my brother (who of course knew nothing of my dreams or letter) insisted she was 79. However after much discussion as a compromise the coffin plate was made showing 80. Subsequently her birth certificate was found and she proved to be 82 and a new coffin plate was hastily made to replace the other.

Mr. Besterman, then Investigation Officer for the Society for Psychological Research, had written to Mr. Harmer Green and expressed the view that the experience was merely a case of coincidence. On reading the letter myself I formed in some ways another opinion and wrote again to Mr. Harmer Green telling him of my different impression. I received the following reply:

Dear Madam,

... I am glad you take a different view from Mr. Besterman in the matter, although to myself who had the experience it makes little or no difference what others think about it. However it set me on a train of thought as to what could be done to be absolutely conclusive proof to everyone.

If for argument's sake you had asked for evidence of the wonders of the "Long Arm of Coincidence" and I had sent you my experience, would not Mr. Besterman

have said "*I do not see that this is evidence of 'chance coincidence' because one cannot exclude the possibility of a genuine psychic experience*"!

Apart from mistakes in detail, etc., what was it that impressed me so intensely as to make me go to the length of writing a letter in the way I did, a thing I have never done before or since?

If you would like to see the originals I shall be pleased to show them to you, which would squash anyone who pointed out you only had copies.

Yours very truly,

W. Harmer Green

In this case the first dreams were probably telepathic, including the impression of heart trouble, the fourth about the "insects" I should label precognitive even though the impression was not completely understood. The dreams were, of course, thought to refer to his son Harold when news came that he was ill at school.

There came the fifth dream about a grave being dug in his mother's garden and again he felt worried about his son. He then had a kind of vision or mental picture of a certificate with the number 79 which he realized was the age and therefore did not refer to his son. His mother died suddenly of a heart attack about a month later. Her age was not accurately known but his brother insisted that she was 79. When her birth certificate was found however it proved that she was in fact 82. Whatever part of Mr. Harmer Green's mind stimulated the dreams, that part evidently tried to correct a wrong impression for it transferred the grave digging to his mother's garden and when that was not understood added the further impression of a certificate with the age marked.

Mr. Harmer Green's mother was old and I should not count the dreams as necessarily precognitive, but probably telepathic, were it not for the curious one about the "insects" which looks like an interpretation by the conscious mind of a precognitive impression. These communications which probably come from one part of the mind to another are very commonly in a symbolic form: the symbolism in all the above dreams is obvious.

I note the further curious detail that the certificate gave 79 as his mother's age. He had not thought this was her age himself, but his brother was positive about it. As it turned out they were both mistaken.

The case is particularly interesting, not only because it was so carefully recorded, but because of the evidence it gives of the confused and confusing way such impressions reach the conscious mind. The dream about the insects came before Mr. Green had interpreted his dreams about the graves as referring to his schoolboy son. When he began to be anxious about his child, came the correction of his 'grave' impressions and within a month his mother's death followed. It is, I think, conclusive that the whole series related to his mother including the impression about 'a table covered with a white cloth with a bright light shining on it which had on it horrible insects, snakes, shiny reptiles which were in danger of falling over on to the floor' and it being his task to put them on again into the middle.

Anyone who has studied the symbolism used in dreams will hardly hesitate to ascribe Mr. Harmer Green's dream about the 'insects and reptiles' to a precognitive impression about his mother's dead body. If this dream had been the only one I might have

agreed with Mr. Besterman's view that the experience did 'not seem to go beyond what might be expected from chance coincidence,' but taken in conjunction with the five other dreams about a grave being dug – one of them pointing indubitably to his mother, and also to the mind picture of a death certificate, I have no doubt myself that this curious detail was part of a genuine precognitive impression, due possibly to telepathy from his mother's mind.

CASE 2

MRS. WILKINSON'S WARNING IMPRESSION ABOUT A BULL

Mrs. Wilkinson, on February 25th, 1934, wrote to me after I had broadcast on Precognition:

Homeside, Newton Abbot,
S. Devon
25th February, 1934

Dear Lady Lyttelton,

After listening in to your interesting address on telepathy I noted that you kindly invited people similarly interested to send an account of any rather unusual experience, so I am taking the liberty of doing so now.

Several years ago, when my son (now a senior midshipman in H.M.S. Royal Oak) was a baby, our nurse used to put the perambulator in the garden at "The Haven," Teignmouth, for an hour or two's fresh air for the baby. One morning I sensed a strong warning, just

as if I were being told "Don't put the baby near the shrubbery" over and over again at intervals. At last I felt so forcibly yet gently impressed that I told nurse to put him on the lawn instead. During that time a bull escaped and got into the next garden, jumped over the hedge and would certainly have crashed over the perambulator had it been there. I was indeed thankful for the timely message.

R. W. Wilkinson

I wrote to Mrs. Wilkinson asking if the nurse she had at that time could give her version, and received the following reply:

The nurse who was with me at the time of the warning, went out to India and married a soldier, and I had since lost sight of her, as the War was on then when she left us and my husband joined the motor transport unit and we left Teignmouth. The baby in the same incident is now grown up and a naval sub-lieutenant, so you see it was a long time ago, but absolutely accurate. Miss Blanche Cook of "Homelands," Woolborough Hill, Newton Abbot, would recall my having told her the incident.

I also wrote to the lady who might remember the incident and print her reply:

Corroboration

I am very sorry not to have answered your letter before. I have been away from home. I will tell you as far as I can remember. Having tea one day with Mrs. Wilkinson, she told me she had a very strange

presentiment. The nurse used to put her baby in the perambulator every morning out on the lawn, but that morning something told her not to let the nurse do so and fortunately she did not as a bull jumped over the hedge. That is all I can tell you about it. It was a blessing the baby was not taken out in the garden. With regrets for not answering your letter before.

This of course is not a corroboration of the precognition, but the incident itself provides that, for Mrs. Wilkinson obeyed the warning, and saved her child from what might have caused its death or serious injury.

There is an inaccuracy about exactly where the perambulator was put, but it is immaterial. The letter is only evidence that the story was told at the time – not of the premonition having been mentioned beforehand.

I have hesitated long about the right category for this case, but have finally placed it in Category III for telepathy of a complicated kind but perhaps more easily attributed to precognition. Coincidence is I think ruled out because of the definite sense of impending danger. Telepathy as an explanation does not seem very plausible as it would imply either telepathy from the bull itself – or from the owner of the bull who could not have known just when the bull would escape. He might have been vaguely afraid of the bull escaping and this disquiet may have been caught by Mrs. Wilkinson. It is a border-line case.

CASE 3

MRS. HANSON'S¹ MIND PICTURE
WARNING A SOLDIER IN FRANCE

There are two predictions in a letter from Mrs. Hanson, but I will here only direct attention to one which conveyed a warning, for the other belongs among trivial incidents which though foretold might be attributed to coincidence.

February 28th 1934

Dear Madam,

On Friday I listened to your talk on "Enquiry into the Unknown, etc.," and I was very interested, because you mention mind pictures. I have that gift myself sometimes, but I have never studied anything about it. I have a nephew on the stage in New York and five months ago he was out of employment and he wrote to me asking if I could tell him anything. I wrote a long letter back to him and told him he would have a chance in a comic act which would go very well. I did not hear from him until the 7th January, 1934, and I am sending you that part of his letter. You will see he has mentioned about it. The play is called "As Thousands Cheer."

Here is another: Now during the Great War my brother-in-law was somewhere in France: he was a sniper. I used to write to him. In one letter I sent I told him he would see someone signalling from some ruins, and he must watch very carefully because they were like our signals and I told him to move away, there was danger. I did not hear until after the War, because

¹Substitute name.

our letters were censured, but he told me after they were in such a place and it was blown up and they would have been only for me.

At times, if those I write to want to know anything, I seem to have mind pictures of what they want to know. I often think I am saying things that are not true. I often wonder myself what it is, for often the things come as I say. As a child, whenever there was a death in the family I would hear knocks, three loud ones, on an old desk we had. It was not imagination for there were others that heard them in the house. I do not believe in Spiritualism but I have often thought and wondered how it was that so many things come true. There seems some great Power. Now sometimes I cannot rest until I have written the words of a song, or poetry. I write them down, and sometimes make a tune with notes in the right hand. I have only an ordinary education. If you would care to read any I will send some, just to let you see the things I am prompted to write.

Yours respectfully,

J. Hanson

I wrote to Mrs. Hanson asking if she could get her brother-in-law to write an account of the warning:

Dear Madam,

I thank you for your letter of the 25th July and will write to my brother-in-law and when I receive an answer, will send details on to you. It was not a dream I had about the false signals in the War, but a mind picture that came to me when I was writing to my brother-in-law while he was in France.

I did not hear any more till September when I got another from Mrs. Hanson enclosing a letter from her brother-in-law dated September 1st, 1934, which I append.

Corroboration

Dear Jane,

I have great pleasure in stating that what you wrote to me about during the War while I was in France came true and of several other things which you told me came true after the War. Hoping this will be of any use to you.

With love from

I. Nichols

Although the corroboration I have obtained is not sufficiently detailed, I am inclined to include the case in Category III, for evidently this was not Mrs. Hanson's only experience. It is possible that she was in touch telepathically with her brother-in-law who may himself have had suspicions about false signals. What does seem clear is that her letter to him warned him.

CASE 4

MRS. SANDERS'¹ IMPRESSION OF
DANGER TO HER HUSBAND

The following is a difficult story to classify. I received this letter:

Dear Madam,

On January 25th, 1908 my husband and I were living in Edmonton, Canada. We had been married

¹ Substitute name.

just over a year and were very happy and light-hearted. At the time my husband was engaged in looking after the engines of a small coal-mine and was working the night shift leaving home about 7 p.m. We had just finished our evening meal about 6.15 which was very jolly having two friends to share it. Suddenly I went unusually quiet and felt quite distressed and unhappy and begged my husband not to go to work. In fact pleaded with him putting my arms round him and even cried. He said "I must go or the men will be unable to work." I accompanied him to the door and watched him down the road, when he got to the bend he turned and waved to me, the light of a lamp falling on his face. I thought what beautiful eyes he has. I went indoors feeling restless and unhappy. At 10.20 a friend came in. I immediately said before he spoke "Is Tom dead?" He had come to take me to the hospital. Some dynamite had been left in my husband's engine-house without his knowledge had exploded. He was terribly injured being blinded and partially deaf. My husband asked me to write to you about it.

Yours faithfully,

Janet Matilda Sanders¹

Corroboration

The Investigation Officer of the S.P.R. wrote in reply asking if Mrs. Sanders' husband could corroborate the story, and received the following letter from her son:

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of 12th inst. addressed to my mother asking whether my father could write an inde-

¹ Substitute name.

pendent account of the happenings on the night of the accident. I regret that owing to his blindness, my father is unable to write. He has therefore asked me to corroborate the details for him.

I may say that the experience occurred before I was born, but I give the details as related to me years ago by my father and mother. I understand that my father at the time was employed as an engineer at a coal-mine in Edmonton, Canada, and at the time was working at night. On the evening in question (January 25th, 1908) just before my father set out for work my mother had a presentiment that something was about to happen and begged him not to go to work. My father protested that he would have to go, but that he would call in to see that everything was all right later in the night. As my father left the house he turned and looked back and my mother was struck with the beauty of his eyes. Later in the evening a friend came to my mother and before he could say anything mother cried "Is Tom dead?" There had been an explosion at the mine and my father had been badly injured, being blinded and partially deafened. My parents have lost touch with the friend who brought the news to mother, all they can say is that his name was J. R. Hartkey of First Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Trusting this information will be of interest to you,

Yours faithfully,

Ronald Sanders¹

I tried two or three times to get into touch with Mr. Hartkey, but failed. It is an interesting case because though it may be one of pure precognition it might by stretching the theory of telepathy come under that

¹ Substitute name.

category. It must have been known to someone that dynamite had been left in the engine house. Unless it had been done deliberately with malicious intent it would simply have been a piece of carelessness completely forgotten or the warning would have been given conscious expression. This was not done. Yet some thought or impulse continued to warn Mrs. Sanders of her husband's danger and if only the impression had been more explicit he might have escaped entirely. If instead of a vague premonition she had been able to understand what kind of danger threatened him, she could have warned him in a way to catch his attention. The case may be one of a warning telepathically received from someone unconscious of sending it and this, though elaborate, is perhaps a more acceptable explanation than pure precognition. It involves however unconscious specific knowledge, unconscious deduction from knowledge, and an unconscious impulse to warn.

COMMENTS ON CATEGORIES II AND III

ALTHOUGH the cases placed under Categories II and III may conceivably be attributed to telepathy – in Category III of a most complicated kind – their mysterious nature cannot be thus dismissed. Those who have not made an extended study of this matter are apt to be content with the “explanation” of telepathy, and suppose by that word they have replaced what seemed like an abnormal occurrence among comfortable normal sense perceptions. In reality they have done nothing of the kind. Telepathy has only attained the status of an admitted fact – if it has attained it – because the evidence of its existence is overwhelming. But whenever an attempt is made to examine its function, power, range and the implications of these, scepticism at once rears its head. The reason for this is plain enough. Telepathy if it exists at all, cannot be explained away. It means the conveyance of information from one mind to another without the intervention of the senses – or it means nothing.

One hears a great deal of talk about hyperæsthesia of the senses, of hearing, sight and touch, taste and smell, of mental radio or emotional waves of influence like the wireless transmission of sounds and so on. But even a perfunctory study of cases of telepathy destroys any such explanation.

The forms of telepathy are legion. Sometimes actual words used miles away are ‘heard.’ Sometimes events from trivial to important ones are ‘seen,’ though they may have happened at the other side of the world.

Sometimes no more is experienced than a vague disquiet or elation; sometimes the message is conveyed in a dream, symbolic vision or mind-picture, by automatic or inspirational writing, crystal gazing, table tilting, etc. These various mechanisms can all transmit thought and knowledge, not normally accessible to the senses.

The conception of the world presented to us by our senses has been shattered by science: it has measured the stars and weighed them, it has tabulated the secrets of planetary movements and exposed the old delusions about the earth's position in the universe; it has plumbed the depths of the sea and analysed the constituents of the air. It has disintegrated and analysed matter till what presents itself as a solid object to our senses of sight and touch is shown to be composed of minute particles all separated from one another. Innumerable examples could be given of the way we have corrected over and over again by our investigations the evidence of our senses, yet in this matter of telepathy we refuse to admit its existence because we cannot see, hear, touch, smell, or taste it. Or if we do credit it, we shrink from the task of trying to pursue to its logical conclusion the implication of its mere existence. Telepathy is not an appanage of the physical senses: it is something else which we do not understand. Telephone, Radio, Television, have overcome space by marvellous mechanical devices, using the waves made by sounds to carry messages on wires, or to fashion receivers of the waves without wires, or receivers of waves of light, which can reproduce for vision movements from far away. But telepathy does not merely bridge space, it annihilates it — space becomes an irrelevance.

Some people are receivers at times, just as our wireless sets are receivers when they are tuned in, but they are not receivers of actual sounds and movements but receivers of thought and emotion which they are able sometimes to translate into language or vision.

The argument cannot cut both ways: if telepathy is merely an example of hyperæsthesia of the senses it cannot be cited as an explanation of precognition, or if it is so cited then hearing, sight, touch, taste or smell must be held to transcend time as well as space. The dilemma has only to be stated.



CATEGORY IV

CASES WHICH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO PRECOGNITION

THE cases in this category cannot be ascribed either to coincidence or to telepathy. This is a bold statement but I think it can be substantiated. We pass here from the realm of possible causes and explanations of a supernormal power to a mere statement of its existence.

In the main the predictions contain too much detail for the fulfilment to be a mere matter of chance, even if the action of telepathy can be traced.

It must again be stated that the cases of precognition presented in this little book form only a sample of the evidence for the faculty that exists. The Society for Psychical Research has numbers of similar cases recorded in its publications, both publicly and privately printed. These are open to inspection as far as the *Proceedings* are concerned by anyone who cares to buy copies. The privately printed *Journal*, the files and the use of the library, are only available to members.

The Society also welcomes spontaneous cases. If anyone experiences or hears of an instance of precognition, an account of this sent to the Research Officer of the Society for Psychical Research, 31 Tavistock Square, W.C.1, would be gratefully appreciated. It is only by the slow steady growth of a mass of evidence that precognition will some day be recognized as the not infrequent exercise of a strange supernormal faculty.

It may be contended that in itself this aim is not of much importance, and that even if sufficient evidence to demonstrate the existence of precognition were accumulated, it would not have any practical bearing upon our conduct. Incidentally the same may be said of many scientific investigations. To that extent I agree. The power of precognition is unlikely ever to play a large part in our management of life. It was given an opportunity in ancient times and faded gradually away, not because it never existed, but because of its sporadic and often unreliable nature. But if its existence can ever be demonstrated beyond all denial, the fact must exert a commanding influence on our conception of the universe we inhabit, and of our own being; it will profoundly affect speculation about the nature of time and space, and indeed all philosophical thought.

CASE 1

MRS. RICHARDS' DREAM ABOUT KELLSBORO JACK WINNING THE GRAND NATIONAL

The following prediction about the winning horse at the Grand National of 1933 has some points of interest:

3/32 Linden Gardens, W.2.
February 25th 1934

Dear Dame Edith,

You rashly invited any of the listeners who listened in to your extremely interesting broadcast last Friday night to send you an account of any prophetic dreams they may have had.

I crossed from Belfast to Liverpool on the night of Thursday, March 23rd, 1933, in order to see the Grand National which was being run the next day. On the boat I discovered that I had forgotten my mackintosh and felt a little worried. I went to sleep and dreamt that I was at the Race, that it was pouring with rain and that a horse beginning with K and ending with Jack had won the race although he was not the first horse past the winning post. Before going to see the race I had lunch with some friends and told them my dream. They looked up the list of the horses that were running and suggested Pellorus Jack, but I said "No, his name began with a K." They read on and found Kellesboro Jack and I told them that was the horse. I had told them that in my dream it was pouring with rain and this made them so sceptical (as the actual day was heavenly) that I did not say anything about my impression that Kellesboro Jack although winning the race was not the first horse past the winning post.

Kellesboro Jack won and he was not the first horse past the post as a loose (riderless) horse was. Major and Mrs. Kent Lemon, York and Lancs Regiment, The Barracks, Pontefract, were my host and hostess and could give you the names of all the people at lunch to whom I told my dream. . . .

Yours sincerely,

Phyllis Richards

Mr. Besterman at that time Investigation Officer of the Society for Psychical Research was conducting the correspondence and he wrote to Major A. Kent Lemon and received the following humorous letter:

Corroboration

The Barracks, Pontefract,
15th March, 1934

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 13th, it is quite correct that Mrs. Richards attended the Grand National race meeting with us last year and that when we met at the course she said that she had dreamt that Kelsbro Jack had won. I believe she and my wife backed the horse and made some money. I regret I am not in a position to say what Mrs. Richards ate at dinner the night before which interfered with her sleep to the extent of causing her to dream. I should say that the chances of the same menu causing her to dream this year's winner are slight.

Yours faithfully,

A. L. Kent-Lemon,
Major

Mrs. Richards must have a patient temperament for in September of the same year, 1934, I wrote to her

again asking her to get corroboration if she could of Kellesboro Jack not being first past the winning post. I give her answer:

I am afraid, I am afraid¹ that there is only my word for it that I dreamt I said to someone who was watching the race with me words to this effect: "But Kellesboro Jack didn't pass the winning post first, how could he have won the race?" And the person to whom I spoke said "That doesn't matter at all. Kellesboro Jack has won."

Did I put in my first letter which I sent to the B.B.C. that I told the members of the luncheon party that *in my dream* it was pouring with rain? The actual day was heavenly. The probable reason for dreaming that it was raining was that as I was going to bed (on the boat) I discovered that I had left my mackintosh at home and I had on rather a nice coat and skirt which I didn't wish to get wet. I frequently dream that things happen which I particularly don't want to happen. If I invite anybody to dinner I nearly always dream the night before that I have forgotten to order anything to eat!

When I told the members of the luncheon party that in my dream it was pouring with rain there were sceptical grimaces, so much so that I refrained from adding that I also dreamt that Kellsboro Jack was not the first horse past the winning post as I thought they might wonder what was the point in telling the dream at all!

I didn't believe Kellsboro Jack would win. Just before the race started I put 1/- bet on him but I also put 1/- on seven other horses respectively and thought no more about it.

¹ This was in original letter and intended for emphasis.

I remember being astonished when I realized that the winner was the same as in my dream. I also remember being astonished when I went to see the race as a moving picture and saw for the first time the loose horse pass the winning post first exactly as in my dream. On the day we had been at the Canal Turn during the race and had not seen the finish.

I have been unable to get further corroboration about a riderless horse being first past the post. I have also been unable to see a film of the Grand National of that year and even if that were possible the riderless horse might not come into one film though it might in another. Mrs. Richards certainly predicted the winner and I can confirm that Kellsboro Jack won the Grand National in 1933. I have also read a vivid description of the race which showed that the win was uncertain right up to the end.

From *The Times* of March 25th, 1933.

Pelorus Jack and Kellsboro Jack jumped the penultimate fence side by side, and came to the last fence with nothing to choose between them. Personally I thought that Pelorus Jack was going just the easier of the two, although, naturally after such a race, neither was going easily or in comfort. Williams, as good a rider as ever there was over this course, left his horse to the fence; Stott, full of eagerness, seemed, to me, to ride his horse at the fence, and down he came, touching the top of it and crumpling up over landing. Kellsboro Jack, tired and weary but, I hope, happy and proud, as certainly should have been his rider, held on to the end, and won a gallant race by three lengths from Really True, with Slater just beaten for second place.

The British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House, W.1.
20th September, 1934

Dear Madam,

. . . In reply to your enquiry, we have to inform you that when announcing the first three horses during the broadcast of the Grand National of 1933, the commentator said "There's a loose horse with them." There is no indication, however, that the riderless horse was actually first to pass the post. . . .

Yours faithfully,

The British Broadcasting Corporation

This case is not absolutely complete but nearly so, since a riderless horse was among the first three horses. I cannot class the dream as one of pure coincidence: neither can it be called telepathic. I have therefore placed it in Category IV as an instance of precognition. It would be interesting to know if by chance the day Mrs. Richards saw the race on a film it was pouring with rain.

CASE 2

MRS. OLVER—A SERIES OF PREDICTIONS
MADE TO HER

The incident I now record differs from most of the others in that the prediction did not impress itself upon Mrs. Olver's mind directly: she was told of it by a clairvoyante. It is curious that other predictions should have been made to this same lady, an account of which I append.

The Vicarage,
Claybrooke Parva,
Rugby
February 28th, 1934

Dear Dame Lyttelton,

I was very interested in your lecture last Friday. I have been interested in the subject for some years. I am sending you the best instance I have personally had, given me by a little woman I used to go to who lived in a caravan – she was half Italian. I thought it worth recording. The thing that worries me is that in spite of warnings, so often things still happen!

Yours faithfully,
Madeleine Olver

Enclosure

I was warned in March 1930 that my second boy, who was at school in Oxford, must be careful or he would have a bicycle accident. The same warning was given me in May, and again in July. This time I was given details that two bicycles and a motor bicycle would be involved and it might be serious – that the damage would be to the boy's knees. The clairvoyant thought this would happen in August. All August this boy was at home and of course I told him about this warning and when August was over and most of September I sighed with relief hoping that the accident was not to be. Mark returned to Oxford and within a fortnight I had a postcard from him which said "My accident has come." I of course asked him for details, which when they came were as I had been forewarned – he was bicycling with a friend on a second bicycle, they were crossing a road, a motor bicycle coming from behind much too quickly tried to pass in

front of Mark, couldn't and caught his mudguard. He was luckily only damaged on his knees! The motor-bike was smashed against a wall.

She was then asked if she could get an independent report from the son, who wrote to her in response:

Corroboration

Grove House,
Leighton Park School,
Reading

Dear Mummy,

I suppose you mean the Oxford accident as I haven't had any other accident in my life! It so happens that the boy who was with me is here also and I enclose an account which he kindly wrote too. I hope these are all right and will do. I must stop now and will write again on Sunday. . . . With very much love,

Mark

Enclosure

I was biking along the Woodstock road in Oxford with a friend. I wanted to turn up a road to the right which necessitated crossing the road. I looked round and saw a motor-bike which I think was 100 yards away and going fairly slowly (I cannot be sure as I was then very young and very bad at judging distances). I put out my hand and began to cross without thinking much about it. As I was entering the road I heard the sound of an engine approaching (no horn) so without looking round I stood up on the pedals and pedalled harder. Something hit the front wheel of my bike and I was on the road. I got up and my bike was

fairly battered and the front wheel buckled. I was not at all badly hurt, my knees were grazed and I had badly sprained my thumb. The motor-bike had attempted to get round the corner before me and knocked my front wheel in doing so. I got up and wheeled my bike to where the motor-bike was and saw it had crashed badly against the wall. Neither the rider or the pillion rider had been badly hurt. The rider had sprained his ankle. A crowd gathered, names and addresses were taken and we returned to school.¹

Mr. Olver enclosed a letter from his friend Mr. Higgins.

My friend and myself were nearing the end of an afternoon bicycle ride. When the accident occurred my friend was about thirty feet in front of me. My friend was turning a corner when a motor cyclist (with a girl sitting behind him) came along at a very fast rate. Seeing my friend turn he tried to avoid an accident by turning also. The result was that the motor-cycle collided with the bicycle. Nobody was hurt and neither of the machines were damaged except that my friend's front wheel was rather buckled.

A. Higgins

April 1934

Unfortunately though the account of the accident was so clear and vivid, no mention was made of the prediction, so Mrs. Olver was written to again and on May 29th she sent this letter from her son:

¹ The letter was accompanied by a diagram showing the position of roads and cycles.

May 27, 1934

I forgot to state in my previous letter that mother had warned me that I was going to have this motor-bike accident in which another bike was to be present, only it was supposed to happen in August or September, but did not take place till October.

Mark Oliver

Mrs. Oliver very kindly gave me permission to use her name.

In the course of correspondence over this warning Mrs. Oliver mentioned two instances where predictions had been given her, one fulfilled, one not, at the time she wrote in 1934. Corroboration of the first part was obtained, the other, details of which she gave me in a letter dated May 29th, 1934, she now reports, August 30th, 1936, as being fulfilled.

In a letter dated April 6th, 1936, referring to the corroboration of a warning, this postscript appeared :

... I was also told by an old man in Wilts three years ago that my eldest son who was then at Stowe and working to be a doctor - that he would go abroad and wear rather a handsome uniform, not the army or navy. Last March he suddenly made up his mind to try for the Indian Police - he came out top in his exams and sailed for India last October and he is in the United Provinces - very happy!

This aroused my interest. I wrote and asked if corroboration were possible and received the following letter :

The Vicarage,
Claybrooke Parva,
Rugby
20th August, 1936

Dear Mrs. Lyttelton,

Thank you for your letter, I think I can do what you ask! A nice woman in the village here whom I have known for 12 years is interested in these things, and she will write you a letter. I told her all about it at the time. It was in May 1933, Stephen, our eldest son aged 16 - he was supposed to be going to be a doctor and specialised in medical subjects from September 1932 in the VI form at Stowe - until he left in July 1934 and in May 1933 I was staying with my father and went to see this old man who was supposed to have second sight. He told me that Stephen would not be what we expected, but that he would wear rather a smart uniform and go out East - We are very strong Pacifists so I exclaimed against the services, and he answered, it is not the Army or Navy, but it is very smart. Stephen went quietly on until 1934 when all his plans were upset because my brother-in-law who was educating him did not wish to send him to the Varsity, so Stephen left Stowe at a loose end wondering what he should do. He went to Germany for six months: when he came home in February 1935 he still was unable to make up his mind. In March, I suggested he should try the Indian Police. He thought this rather his bent; he started working in April; in June he took his exam. He came out top of 76 men in the exam and he sailed for the U.P. in October and there he is in the province he was born - very happy and in uniform. Is this enough detail?

Yours sincerely,
Madeleine Olver

The following letter was received by me on August 31st, 1936.

Corroboration

Friday 29, '36

Mrs. Lyttelton,

Dear Madam,

Mrs. Olver has asked me to write to you to say I do well remember her telling me about her son Stephen who at that time 1933 was studying for a doctor, would not be a Dr but would take a berth where he would wear uniform and would go East which he has done. I believe it was about March 1935. I have known the family of Olvers since 1924 and often have talks with dear Mrs Olver and when I had a loss a short time ago she has talked of wonderful things of her experience. Trusting this will help you.

I am, yours sincerely,
Frances I. Wilson

At the close of Mrs. Olver's letter dated May 29th, 1934 she wrote:

I have been told to-day we are to move from here before the end of the year! I'll tell you if it comes true. . . .

Yours sincerely,
Madeleine Olver

On April 16th, 1936, when I had written to ask permission to use her name I had this letter:

The Vicarage,
Claybrooke Parva,
Rugby
April 16th, 1936

Dear Madam,

I am only too glad for you to use my information about the premonition of my son's accident. I only wish the nice things I have been told would come to pass! My husband had a breakdown in the autumn, and the doctor said we must get away from the Midlands – and my friend described a most delightful parish we are to go to by the sea – but it is slow appearing! If it eventuates I will tell you! Use my name by all means. I am only too glad to do anything to help, as I am very interested in the subject. . . .

Yours sincerely,
Madeleine Olver

At the end of Mrs. Olver's letter of August 20th, 1936, already quoted, came these words:

Our move has come. We leave the Midlands for a dear little village Newick, Sussex in 3 weeks time.

I wrote and asked Mrs. Olver which among the two or three people who had foretold things to her was responsible for this last prediction now fulfilled and received the following letter:

The Vicarage,
Claybrooke Parva
Rugby
26th August, 1936

Dear Mrs. Lyttelton,

The move from here was predicted by the most reliable clairvoyante I know. She used to do much for

fetes, etc. but because she was anxious to help people, not just to make money, – She is quite well off – she is a dear and we are very fond of her – she has helped me as a friend for 2 years or so. She thought we should go from here in 1934, and she still insists that something “passed us that year.” I saw her here last Sunday and I teased her about “the water” we were to be near, but she says we shall eventually be by water – that this is a stepping stone – it is not quite what she described – but she told me the road sloped up to the house, this it does – and that there was either a large house in the parish, or an institution, as there were large wrought iron gates standing open. This was Newich Park, and the gates were standing open when we went to see Lady Brentford. She says we are going to be happy and that is the most important thing in the world I think.

Yours sincerely,

Madeleine Olver

The little half-Italian gipsy woman who told me of Mark's accident gave up her work 3 years ago I think it must be.

Mrs. Olver enclosed another prediction from the same clairvoyante not yet fulfilled. It is of a private nature and I am grateful to her for letting me have an account of it which I have filed.

None of these instances can be ascribed to telepathy, and the detail about the bicycle accident also about the change in her son's career, can hardly be due to chance. The third prediction was not fulfilled for over two years and as Mrs. Olver was anxious to move she may have influenced the final accomplishment. But the detail about iron gates standing open is rather beyond chance.

CASE 3

MR. SALTMARSH'S DREAM ABOUT
DOGS WORRYING SHEEP

Mr. Saltmarsh, who has contributed a most interesting study of precognition to the *Proceedings of the Society for Psychological Research*, Volume XLII, Part 134, February 1934, told me he had had a precognitive dream and I asked him to write it out for me and have it corroborated. I am glad to say he allows me to print it with his name.

Woodcote,
Lynton, N. Devon
9th November, 1934

Dear Dame Edith,

I have pleasure in enclosing an account of my apparently precognitive dream, signed by myself and confirmed by my wife. Perhaps you will like to file this with the other records which you have. . . .

Yours sincerely,
H. F. Saltmarsh

One night in the spring of this year I dreamed that I was passing a field in which there were some ewes and lambs. Two dogs, something like Alsations, though I could not say that they were actually of that breed, were chasing the lambs and biting them. The ewes and lambs were making a great noise and many of the latter were bleeding at the throats where they had been bitten.

The dream was peculiarly vivid and disturbing, so much so, that I woke and was unable to sleep again for some time. It made a very unpleasant impression on

me, more even than the intrinsically painful nature of the incident seemed to warrant. I preserved a clear recollection of it in the morning.

I recounted the dream to my wife the following day.

Some ten days or so later, I was motoring with my wife near Combe Martin, N. Devon and just before entering the village she exclaimed, "Look at those dogs, they are biting the lambs." In a field by the side of the road I saw two dogs, about the size of Alsations though not of that breed, and some twenty or thirty ewes and lambs. The dogs kept going up to the lambs smelling and licking them and the sheep were making a great noise, running from the dogs and the ewes butting at them. Many of the lambs had blood on them, though unlike the scene in my dream the blood was on their tails and hinder parts, not on the throats. One of the dogs had what appeared to be a piece of wool or lambs skin in its mouth.

Thinking that it was a case of sheep-worrying and being unable to find anyone near, I drove half a mile into the village and fetched the policeman with whom we returned to the field. We then found the farmer who explained that he had been docking the lambs' tails in the field and that the dogs belonged to him. The piece of wool seen in the mouth of one of the dogs was one of the tails which had been cut off and left on the ground.

The dream if precognitive, was inaccurate in two respects; first the dogs were not actually worrying the lambs though at first sight they appeared to be doing so; second, the lambs were not bleeding at the throats as in the dream but had a lot of blood on the hinder parts.

I have lived in the country for over twenty-five years and am constantly about in the lanes and fields, but this is the only time that I have ever seen lambs in a field bleeding after having been docked; moreover I think that there are few farmers who would be so foolish as to allow their dogs to go among them whilst in that condition.

There is one other point which I should mention, viz, that a few days before my dream I had been reading the reports of some apparently clairvoyant dreams one of which was of two dogs killing and devouring two lambs.

H. F. Saltmarsh

Corroboration

I confirm the above account of my husband's dream as told to me on the following day, also about ten days later while motoring with him, of seeing the dogs among the ewes and lambs after the latter had been docked.

E. C. Saltmarsh

Woodcote,
Lynton,
25th August, 1936

Dear Dame Edith,

Many thanks for your letter. Please use my case of the sheep and print my letter if you think it is a fair report of the incident. I have no objection to my name being given in full.

I have always thought that it was an instance of pre-cognition although some of the smaller details were not accurate.

I agree with you that the public generally take very little interest in these matters and I doubt whether any

evidence would suffice to convince them of the reality of the phenomenon. They get over it by ignoring it.

I am convinced that there is a large element of some sort of precognitive knowledge in the Extra-Sensory perception experiments. Dr Rhine tells me that he has succeeded in getting quite a large amount of good evidence but so far he has not given me any details. In Mr Tyrrell's experiment the evidence is at last beginning to reach the point of real significance.

Yours sincerely,

H. F. Saltmarsh

The inaccuracy in detail is particularly interesting, for Mr. Saltmarsh awake made the same wrong deduction about the dogs worrying the sheep as he had done in his dream.

CASE 4

MRS. SIDDALL'S DREAM ABOUT HER BROTHER'S FATAL ACCIDENT

In February 1934 I received the following letter :

11 Spencer Avenue,
Whitefield,
Nr. Manchester
February 26th, 1934

Dear Madam,

. . . I am wondering if my little experience will be of any interest to you. Five years ago I woke up in the morning but did not get up at once, I was not asleep,

neither was I fully awake. I had what I thought was a nasty dream. I saw my brother being wedged against a wall. I could see him quite plainly: he had on a blue cotton jacket (what we call a blue slop). As the day wore on I could not get rid of it. My husband said to me what is the matter? Then I told him. He said don't be silly. A week later I could not get without the vision. I told my mother I had had a nasty dream. She said what about, so I told her I had seen a fellow being killed by being wedged against a wall. I then told her who it was and she said don't tell the others who are going on holidays on Saturday July 7th. On Sunday July 8th we were just finishing tea when a knock came to the door; it was my brother's son. He said they have taken my father to the Infirmary, he has had an accident. He has fallen off a ladder at work and had fractured his skull through his head coming in contact with a wall when he fell. He passed away at 8.30 the same night and when my husband came home he said I had to sign for Bob's clothes and there was a blue slop amongst them. I had not seen my brother for over twelve months. I may say he had been working on the Sunday and they had taken him straight from the works to the Infirmary. My husband and my mother can verify this statement. I have never studied this subject but it makes me think there is something.

I remain, Yours truly,
H. Siddall

I hold the corroboration of both Mrs. Siddall's mother and husband that she told them the dream before its fulfilment:

Corroboration

11 Spencer Avenue,
Whitefield
March 19th, 1934

Dear Madam,

In reference to your letter regarding the letter sent to you by Mrs Siddall, it is with the greatest pleasure that we verify Mrs Siddall's statements contained in her letter regarding the vision prior to the death of her brother and all she told us came true.

We remain, Yours sincerely,
Mary White, Mrs Siddall's mother.
Charles Siddall, husband.

It is difficult not to feel that Mrs. Siddall had a visual impression of a future event. The blue slop is a curiously evidential detail: the accident happened on a Sunday when he would not normally have been wearing his working clothes. Of course it can be said the blue slop is a common enough garment for a workman to be using, but taken in conjunction with the fact that he was killed by falling against a wall, although Mrs. Siddall's expression was 'wedged,' I feel this case cannot be ascribed to coincidence alone and certainly not to telepathy and that it therefore belongs to Category IV.

CASE 5

MRS. LLOYD-OWEN'S WARNING
OF A CRASH IN THE SCHNEIDER TROPHY AIR RACE

The following case has several interesting features and I have permission to use real names:

Oak Lodge,
Ickenham,
Middlesex
23rd March, 1934

Dear Madam,

In your broadcast in the Enquiry into the Unknown series, you asked listeners to send you examples of prevision which had occurred to them personally: I intended to write to you in response but have delayed so long in the hope of discovering the name of the person whose death I foresaw, which unfortunately I have forgotten. I have not, from casual enquiry, achieved this but I am writing nevertheless as any serious investigator would have no trouble in finding it.

A few weeks before the 1931 Schneider Trophy air race, (My husband says it was 1931) I went to the cinema with my husband and a woman friend one evening; the news reel contained photographs of the British Schneider Trophy team, (the date could be fixed by this to within a day or two). We were first shewn the team standing in a group and were then shewn each member separately. I may say at this point that all the members were complete strangers to me nor did I know anyone who was acquainted with any one of them; I had no interest in the race whatever, nor any connection with it, beyond that of an ordinary member

of the public, the Schneider Trophy race has, however, interested me very much always, I find it almost terribly exciting. The team that year consisted of R.A.F. men with the addition of one single Naval flying man, he stood out in the group by reason of his different uniform; when the group photograph was shown I noticed nothing except that he seemed very young and rather good-looking. Then we were shewn each man singly. As the photograph of this young naval man was thrown on the screen (it is his name I have forgotten) I received a sudden terrific sensation of shock, the shock of violent physical impact. I started so violently in my seat that my friend sitting next me whispered "what's the matter?" I answered in great distress "he's going to be killed, he's going to crash." That was all. But either two, or three weeks later the newspapers came out with headlines "Schneider Trophy Fatality," the only Naval member of the team had crashed into the sea and had been killed instantly while on a practice flight. Those are the facts; my friend Miss Florence Fletcher, at present at 3 Bilton Road, Rugby, can confirm them, and my husband to a lesser extent (he was sitting on the far side of my friend and did not hear all that was said).

Yours faithfully,
J. Lloyd-Owen

Miss Florence Fletcher was written to and sent the following letter:

Corroboration

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday, I shall be pleased to give you what I remember of Mrs Lloyd-Owen's experience in connection with the Schneider Trophy.

We went together to a Cinema one evening, saw one or two ordinary films and she was chatting about them in the intervals in a perfectly happy mood. Then the news film was shown, and with it the English team who were to compete for the Schneider Trophy. The picture first showed them all together and then each man was shown separately on the screen. The first two or three passed without comment, and then another young keen looking man was shewn and my friend gave a violent jump. I looked at her quickly and even in the dim light I could see she had gone quite white, and, thinking she was going to faint or felt ill, I asked her if she'd like to go out and what was the matter. She said she was quite all right but she just knew suddenly that that man would be killed.

Unfortunately I cannot remember the name, I am afraid I have never taken a very active part in sport and only know the very outstanding names. I have an idea it began with a B. A short time after this incident we read in the paper that the man in question had crashed. It was a clear case of sudden foreknowledge.

I am very sorry to have missed these wireless talks as I am very interested in Psychical Research and have myself had several instances of premonitions, mostly in small ways, but one larger, only unfortunately I can give no witness. I have also had very clear cases of telepathy some years ago. So I shall look forward to hearing further talks.

Yours truly,
Florence R. Fletcher

Oak Lodge,
Ickenham,
Middlesex
17th April, 1934

I can corroborate my wife's account of her premonition of the death while practising for the Schneider Trophy race in 1931, of the naval officer who was a member of the team, but whose name I cannot remember, although I think it was something like Brunton. I was present with her and with Miss F. Fletcher at the cinema when the news reel containing the photograph of the British team was shewn, during which she experienced the premonition and further I heard her discussing the incident with Miss Fletcher after the performance.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. Lloyd-Owen

Mrs. Lloyd-Owen's husband is a Commander in the Royal Navy. I have ascertained that the name of the young man who crashed while practising for the Schneider Trophy race in 1931 was Lieutenant Brinton. He was drowned when G.6 plunged into the Solent during a trial. The accident happened on August 18th, 1931. The race took place on September 13th, 1931.

I have made several efforts to discover the exact date when this film was shown, but it seems impossible - it was only an item in the programme. Messrs. Selfridge's Information Bureau have been in communication with the British Movietone News:

London, W.1
12th March, 1936

Dear Madam,

We have been in communication with the British Movietone News people about the Schneider Trophy Race in 1931 and they tell us that unfortunately they are unable to discover from their records the actual length of time prior to the Race that photographs of the competitors for the Schneider Trophy 1931 were shown on the screen. They add that it was, however, some considerable time, and the actual race itself was on the screen within twenty-four hours of the event.

Yours faithfully,

for Selfridge & Co. Ltd.,

C. E. L. Chapman,

Bureau of Information

If the picture was shown when the accident happened, or was actually happening at the moment, it would have been a striking case of telepathy rather than precognition. It is to be noted, however, that Mrs. Lloyd-Owen states it was before the accident and her friend Miss Florence Fletcher confirms this. If the impression had been followed immediately by the news I think it would naturally have been noted. But Mrs. Lloyd-Owen, her husband and her friend, treated it as premonitory. Therefore in spite of the bare possibility of the impression really being telepathic, I include it.

Quite recently Mrs. Lloyd-Owen wrote again to say that she was positive her impression was a considerable time before the accident.

Beaufort House,
Beaufort Street,
Chelsea, S.W.3

12th September, 1936

Dear Madam,

Please forgive my not having answered your letter of the 19th August sooner ; it was very discourteous of me.

As to the incident concerned with Lieut. Brinton's death : of course I do not remember just how long to the day it was before the crash occurred, but I am pretty sure - in fact, quite sure, that it was more than a fortnight, I think probably about three weeks, before it happened that I saw the film of the Schneider Trophy Race team. There was no question of Lieut. Brinton's having already crashed at the time ; in fact, so many days elapsed before his death that the incident had begun to lose its effect on me. I suppose it would be possible to discover from the cinemas showing the News Reel containing the photographs of the team that year.

Yours truly,

J. Lloyd-Owen

13 Hillmorton Road,
Rugby

12th November, 1936

Dear Madam,

On going through some letters I found one from my friend Mrs. Lloyd-Owen sent a month ago or more telling me that you again wished to have corroboration of her having seen on the Cinema Lieut. Brinton one of the team for the Schneider Trophy race, and who crashed. I cannot remember exactly how long before the crash we saw the film, but should think it was about a fortnight. It was quite definitely well before, and was

a case of premonition and not telepathy. The man had not crashed at the time, and I distinctly remember that some little time elapsed between our seeing the film and hearing the news of his death.

I apologise for the late reply, but I have been extremely busy and this got overlooked.

Yours truly,

F. R. Fletcher

CASE 6

MRS. CALDER'S DREAMS ABOUT HOUSES SHE WAS GOING TO LIVE IN

The experiences of Mrs. Calder are, I think, specially interesting, and by great good fortune her husband, Headmaster of the Grammar School at Goole, in Yorkshire, has kept a 'coincidence notebook.' Mr. Calder very kindly sent me a letter containing several of these 'coincidences'; some of them show knowledge of what was happening at the time, or soon after, to people far away and which would, therefore, be classed under Telepathy. But here are one or two instances of prevision. I give extracts from Mr. Calder's letter.

The Grammar School,
Goole,
Yorkshire
14th May, 1934

Dear Madam,

I was interested in your recent address "Premonition and Prevision" and in accordance with your request

in "The Listener" for the 28th February am sending you the following information.

In 1928 I was appointed headmaster of the Holmforth Secondary School, Yorks. Before leaving our home in Middlesex my wife (who had never been to Yorkshire) dreamed of an old house built of grey stone, situated in a lovely valley through which ran a shallow stream of black looking water. Our "house-hunting" led us to the very place she had seen in her dream. The house was at Honley - three miles from Holmforth. We moved into the house in August 1928. The stream was frequently discoloured from the waste products of the neighbouring dye-works. [Here followed a very interesting case of telepathy which I omit.] . . . On December 19th 1930 I was appointed headmaster of the Goole Grammar School. My wife had never seen Goole, nor had she been in this part of Yorkshire. On the 28th December 1931 she dreamed of a dark red house vaguely square standing on a corner of two streets. There was a fence over which she could see a low flat garden. She described the house to me next morning and said she felt convinced we would have to live in it - although she was depressed at the prospect of doing so. On the 31st December we visited Goole to find a new house and after a long time we began to despair of finding anything suitable. At last the retiring headmaster Mr. C. J. Forth took us to the house Mrs. Calder had seen in her dream. Entries in Mrs. Calder's diary - which she has kept for some years - confirm these facts. I ought to add that on the 29th December Mrs. Calder told me that in her dream Mr. Forth, she and I tried a front garden gate, but failing to open it we walked down the side road and looked over a low fence into the garden. This happened exactly as described.

[Here followed two more instances of telepathy also most interesting.] The letter ended :

I have long since learned to place great reliance on my wife's premonitions and have never yet regretted having done so.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. Calder

Westfield House,
Westfield Avenue,
Goole, Yorks.
June 1st, 1934

Dear Madam,

I have pleasure in confirming my husband's information to you concerning various experiences of telepathy and dreams. I shall be very much interested in any theory of explanation of these occurrences, which may result from research. I believe Mr. Calder described to you two instances of my having seen, most clearly and in detail while occupied in sleep, two houses - one of which we occupied for just over two years, and one in which we now live.

The details seem almost incredible even to myself - but we were so impressed with the first occasion that on the second I wrote down details in my diary, every detail being subsequently confirmed.

I had no knowledge of Yorkshire at the time of my first "dream" of a definite house & surroundings, yet so clear was my memory of it that as soon as I saw the house (a rather peculiar one - in fact probably unique) it was quite familiar to me, and to my husband from my description. I had been most insistent, in my description of the house on various points - one that the roof was of various heights, also the position of the

house to the road (at right-angles, presenting a blank end wall to the road) and that tree covered hills rose as a direct background (I had never been in the North in my life, nor had any friends in the Huddersfield district).

When we went to Holmfirth to look for houses, I was quite conscious of expecting to see the house about which I had dreamed – and when we came upon it, almost by chance, it was with a sense of shock that it should be so familiar. One peculiarity was that in my dream I had looked into a narrow stream which was quite clear but inky black. This seemed to me ridiculous, and I had laughed at it at the time. However, after recognising, and taking the house – we found that the narrow stream running through the garden was usually exactly according to my description – as it was used by dyeworks, chiefly using indigo dye. Only one detail was lacking – in my dream I had seen that half the house appeared to be occupied and outside the door was a barrel being used as a dog-kennel for a black retriever. Certainly half the house was occupied, but the tenants had no dog-kennel and no dog. A year or so later, new tenants arrived and my dream was recalled to me very vividly – when they brought with them a black Labrador retriever and placed a barrel by the door for its use.

I can offer no explanation for any of these experiences. You suggest that my dream of our present house may have been telepathy, but no one here had thought of this house as being suitable for us. I spent a whole day visiting suggested houses and this was not shown to me, although, as I had “seen” it in my dream, I had asked especially about “corner” houses. This, again, is a peculiar type of house – the only one of its kind in the

neighbourhood, with a number of unmistakeable features, which I had described quite clearly before ever visiting the neighbourhood. Several of my friends at Honley had heard about my "seeing" our house there before moving – and when we knew we were to move to Goole they often asked if I had "seen" our future residence. Then when I actually did so – and was able to give details – they were sceptically interested, until they were convinced by our actually finding and occupying the actual house.

Several other minor things of the same type have occurred to me – a few when I was a child, but as I have no verification for those they would be of no value. I shall of course keep a record of any similar experiences in the future.

I must apologise for writing at such length – but perhaps exact details are a help in research of this type. I am quite willing for you to use any of this material in any way you wish, and if I could be of further help, I should be glad.

Yours sincerely,
A. W. Fyson Calder

Mr. Calder who was asked if he could remember about the barrel, sent the following letter:

Corroboration

Westfield House,
Goole, Yorks.
5.10.36

Dear Mrs Lyttelton,

I'm sorry not to have replied to your letter before, but Mrs Calder has been away from Goole for some time. I have discussed the point in question with her

and we can corroborate the details we sent previously concerning the black retriever and the barrel. She certainly dreamed about this incident which was only fulfilled about a year after we took our house (Cliffe House) at Honley (not Holmfirth). Honley is about three miles from Holmfirth where my school was at the time.

Yours truly,
R. B. Calder

There are several points of interest in these experiences. Note first the curious detail of the water in a stream running through a garden being clear but black in Mrs. Calder's vision or dream and her thinking this ridiculous and laughing at it. Yet the detail turned out to be correct when she saw the house in reality. The dream sounds as if she had actually seen the stream.

Then notice the still more curious experience which not only pictured for her the house as she would live in it, but added a barrel, outside the door of the other half of the house, used by a black retriever. This part of the dream did not move into her normal experience for a year or so when some new tenants arrived bringing a black retriever which they housed in a barrel. Mrs. Calder seems not only to have seen a bit of her own future, but a bit of someone else's. Or to put it in another way, she travelled a little further into the future than was necessary to enable her to recognize her future home.

I am hoping to hear again from Mrs. Calder if she has any more telepathic and precognitive experiences.

CASE 7

MRS. PRITCHARD'S DREAM OF HER HUSBAND'S DEATH

The next case is interesting because of the detail in Mrs. Pritchard's dream, and also the double corroboration by people told of the dream before the predicted event came to pass. It is the only instance I shall give which concerns health, but must I think be classed with true precognition because of the details which were foreseen. I received the following letter:

22 Downs Park,
Herne Bay,
Kent

February 28th, 1934

Dame Edith Lyttelton,

I was extremely interested in your Broadcast on 23rd inst., and in response to your request I enclose the account of a dream I had in 1922. I married in 1920 the Rev. James Pritchard who was Congregational minister here for 14 years and greatly beloved.

Our marriage was a very happy one. In 1922 I had a very vivid dream which I told many people. I thought that my husband died whilst preaching and that I made my way through a great crowd to find him lying dead behind velvet curtains. The dream made a great impression on me, and many times when he was preaching I felt anxious, but I never could understand the velvet curtains.

On November 9th 1924 my husband was asked to give the address at the Armistice Service in the Pier Pavilion - there were 2500 present and I sat with my step-daughter right at the back of the hall. I had never

heard him more eloquent. As I was finding the last hymn someone said "Your husband has fainted." I looked up and saw him being carried from the platform. We made our way through the crowd and when I got on to the platform I found him lying dead behind the green velvet drop curtains. The Last Post was sounded, and he was covered with the Union Jack. . . .

Yours truly,

Gertrude M. Pritchard

If Mrs. Pritchard had merely dreamed that her husband died while preaching that, though remarkable enough, might possibly have been attributed to a perhaps unconscious anxiety about the strain of preaching. But when to that is added the premonition about finding him lying dead behind velvet curtains after pressing through a crowd of people, the case can hardly be dismissed as one of simple coincidence. Mrs. Pritchard was kind enough to tell me of one or two other dream experiences which she has had of too intimate a nature to reproduce here, but showing that she is one of those people who seem in dreams to make contact with the dead.

Mrs. Pritchard was then written to and asked if she could send the names of any of her friends who had heard about the dream before her husband's death. She most kindly sent some names and at the same time gave permission for the story to be printed under her own name.

Corroboration

25th March, 1934¹

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter regarding Mrs. Pritchard's dream, I am sorry I cannot give you the actual date,

¹ Address omitted by request

but I remember Mrs. Pritchard telling me her dream, it must have been about two years before her husband's death. As far as I can remember the dream she saw her husband (who was a Congregational Church Minister) preaching to a large audience, when he was taken ill and died, she herself always going through a crowd of people and behind velvet curtains. What actually happened, that Rev. James Pritchard was taking the Armistice Service in the Pavilion, Herne Bay, just as he finished his address, he sat down on his chair and died. Mrs. and Miss Pritchard were sitting at the back of the hall. They had to walk through a large crowd of people (there was an audience of three thousand present) and to behind the stage.

I am sorry I have such a bad memory for dates, but I do know the dream and what actually happened were almost the same.

I hope I have given you the particulars you want.

Yours truly,

M. Trafford

Ferneleigh,
The Bridge,
St. Leonards-on-Sea

Dear Sir,

Your letter received re Mrs. Pritchard. Several years ago Mrs. Pritchard told me of a dream she had about her husband dying whilst preaching and having to go to him through a crowd of people and finding him behind velvet curtains, etc.

About two years later, Mr. Pritchard was preaching to a crowded congregation in the Pier Pavilion when he suddenly died. Mrs. Pritchard was sitting almost at the back of the hall (as far as I remember) and had

to push through the crowd to get to the platform. We then remembered her dream of two years before. Am sorry I cannot give you any more details, as it all happened several years ago.

Yours sincerely,

Lily Groom

CASE 8

MR. BREARY'S DREAM ABOUT A FIRE

I received the following graphic description :

395 High Road,
Leyton, E.10
25.2.34

Madam,

Both Mrs. Breary and myself listened to your very interesting talk and my wife then reminded me of the following event.

One night during the Great War my wife woke me up stating that I had been groaning very much and asking if I were unwell. I said thank goodness it's only a dream. Briefly, my dream was this. I was doing a first-aid job surrounded by large fires and that the lighted fragments were dropping down upon myself and companions. One week later the great explosion at Silvertown took place, and as a St. John Ambulance man I was soon in uniform and right in the thick of it in a very short time. What I saw in my dream was only too true, the corn from Grant's huge shoots were sending the corn up into the air and dropping on to us and our ambulance dressings, in fact we had to shift stretchers and appliances several times. My wife heard

me describe my dream and all I could say when I returned from Silvertown that it was exactly as I had dreamed.

Yours faithfully,

H. M. Breary

I wrote in 1936 and asked if Mr. Breary's wife could corroborate and received by return the following letter:

Corroboration

395 High Road,
Leyton, E.10
16.4.36

Madam,

Re Precognition broadcast and my response - Silvertown.

You are at perfect liberty to use my full name and address. I might also mention I am well known locally, member of the Leyton Rotary Club, Past Master and D.C. of the Leyton St. John's Lodge Freemasons, 2nd Principal Leyton St. Mary's Chapter Royal Arch Freemasons. A.D.C. West Kent & Merchant Navy Royal Arch Freemasons, I.G. of the Leyton Lodge, 2626 Craft Freemasons, also a member of the Fillebrook, Essex, Mark Masters Masons Lodge. The above can be verified at Great Queen Street.

Unfortunately Mrs. Breary cannot see to read or write: under Mr. Forrest Ophthalmic Surgeon of Duke Street, Manchester Square, for the past two years much to my regret. To corroborate my first letter to you, my wife will sign her name under mine and in the presence of witnesses.

Yours faithfully,

Witnesses:

E. Ward

H. C. Kemp

H. M. Breary

T. G. Breary

As will be seen two witnesses attest Mrs. Breary's signature. I am very grateful to both Mr. and Mrs. Breary for allowing me to print their letter and with real names.

Raids were happening at the time and it might easily be said that Mr. Breary's mind must have been occupied with the subject, but the detail about burning fragments dropping on the ambulance workers seems beyond chance.

CASE 9

MR. BURRELL'S PICTURE OF SCAR ON FACE OF MR. TRENCH

117 Harrison Street,
Bloxwich,
Walsall
7.3.34

Your address was very interesting and I think I ought to tell you of my experiences of which I have hundreds.

I have never been to a spiritualist's meeting and abhor seances for conversing with the dead.

Mine are not Dreams or Seances, they are VISIONS and occur in broad daylight some whilst working.

It is the future which I see and when these visions occur they leave me with a strange feeling and I know they are going to happen. . . .

During the Great War two brothers Jack and Charlie Trench of Farringdon Street, Walsall, joined the army as machine gunners. They came home on leave from

France. . . . [Here followed a few words about Trench's dread of returning.] He was walking along my beat with me when I distinctly saw him with a scar over his left eye. I had a strange feeling about it. I immediately told him to cut a button from off the bottom of my tunic put it round his neck with his identity disc and told him he would come through the war alright with only a scar over his left eye.

When the war was over he came home and the only wound he had was a slight scar over his left eye caused by the enemy.

He is now a Railway Police Sergeant at Chester. I have not seen him for years but he is sure to treasure the button. . . .

Yours faithfully,
Joseph F. Burrell

In October 1936 I wrote to Mr. Burrell asking if he could supply me with his friend Trench's address. He replied again that Trench was a Railway Police Sergeant at X but that he had not seen him for years. I was able, through the courtesy of the Chief Constable's office at X, to trace him and wrote asking him for his account of the prediction, being, of course, careful not to tell him what Mr. Burrell had said.

16th November, 1936

Dear Sir,

In 1934 I did a Broadcast about cases of Prediction. Among the many letters I received was one from Mr. Burrell, of 117 Harrison Street, Bloxwich, Walsall. He told me a very interesting story connected with you before you went to the war. He also said that he had given you a button of his uniform as a memento of his

prediction. I wonder whether you would be so kind as to give me your version of this story? It is not that I doubt Mr. Burrell's word for a moment, but it is necessary for the story to be corroborated if it is to be published.

Yours truly,

E. Lyttelton

P.S.—I got your address from the Chief Constable, X. I should be so much obliged if you could do this for me.

He wrote in reply:

Dear Madam,

Your letter to hand of the 16th inst. re story submitted by Mr. Burrell of 117 Harrison Street, Bloxwich.

That gentleman did give me a button off his Police tunic and requested me to wear same with my army identification disc and that I would return from the war with nothing more than a facial scar. This did actually happen, I was wounded in the face immediately under the right eye, and I possess the piece of shrapnel to-day.

I am grateful for your communication as I had lost touch with Mr. Burrell for 16 years but will now be able to correspond with him.

Should you at any time require further information, I shall only be too pleased to assist.

Yours truly,

J. Trench

If Mr. Burrell had only stated that his friend Trench would return the case might be accounted for by chance. But the detail about the wound can hardly be covered by this explanation.

CASE 10

MISS ALBERIGH-MACKAY. A SERIES OF IMPRESSIONS

I must ask forgiveness for including the whole of Miss P. Alberigh-Mackay's letter which describes various experiences of precognition. About only one of these is corroboration obtainable, but I include the rest as they shed light upon the temperament of one who evidently has faculty.

The Mill House,
Morningford,
Essex

24th February, 1934

Dear Madam,

I was most interested in your talk on Premonition and Prevision on Friday evening and am sending you accounts of three cases which occurred to me years ago. Unfortunately I made no note of the date and though I told many of my friends and the members of my family, I never asked for their signatures to any of the written accounts.

When a student at the Bloomsbury School of Art, I had to prepare a class for the South Kensington examination in Geometry. I knew very little about the subject and as the date of the examination approached began to get very anxious as to the result. At the time I was living at an Art Students' Home in Brunswick Square. On the morning of the examination, when I awoke, I saw to my astonishment on the wall opposite my bed an elaborate problem, minutely lettered and grasped at once the fact that I knew how to solve it. Going down to breakfast again the figure appeared on

the wall and I determined to give my class a lesson on it.

The examination was to be held from 6 – 10 p.m. At 5 p.m. I collected the students, drew the figure on the blackboard and worked out the problem. At about 10.30 several excited students rushed in to see me saying "You saved us all at the last moment." The problem was in the examination paper marked more highly than any other. My drawing was still on the black-board and every letter and detail coincided with that in the paper. Every student passed in the first class. I cannot remember the date; it was probably in 1893-94.

While still living in Brunswick Square I had a strange experience. I slept in a very small bedroom, if I stretched out my arm in bed I could just touch a chest of drawers. I woke one morning, lying facing this chest of drawers. I was wide awake: suddenly the room changed: I was facing a large fireplace in front of which stood two men, both dark. They kept turning in my direction and I noticed what beautiful teeth one of them had. They were talking but I could hear no sounds. Then a fair man, whose face I could not see, walked across between them and me. I was so anxious to see him that I jumped out of bed, knocked my head on the chest of drawers and everything disappeared. I told everyone at breakfast, and my family when I went home. Years after I went back to the station in Central India where I had lived as a child. The evening after I arrived I went to the Club. As I went in, the same two dark men were standing at the same fireplace, just in the same positions – then the fair man walked across. I started forward to see him and knocked into a man who laughingly asked why I was so eager! I found out

afterwards that the two men had been boys at Eton at the time of my vision and the Club house not built. It was all absolutely unimportant which makes it all the more strange that it should have occurred. I wrote home at once and told my family.

The next vision of the kind I had in Eastbourne. One night I left my mother and sister in the drawing-room and went up to bed. Kneeling down to say my prayers I was suddenly in a bleak mountainous country, along a path came a group of men dressed in very ungainly garments carrying a coffin. When they disappeared I went down and told my mother and sister. Years after when I was living in Kashmir my sister came out to stay with me. I went down to the entrance to the valley to meet her, stood and waited on the bank of the river while she was rowed across. She kissed me and said "Why this is the place of your vision, but it was my funeral, not yours." It was. She went up as far as Gilgit and died of enteric.

I have had one other very vivid "vision" lately, in which I was an actor, but as it has not yet been fulfilled I will not bore you with it. I have had endless visions of all sorts and very many strange psychic experiences all my life.

Hoping I have not written at too great length.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

Patty Alberigh-Mackay

I wrote to Miss Alberigh-Mackay saying that I was much interested in her having seen the geometrical problem on the wall. This I felt was a case of telepathy and that the information gathered was conveyed to the conscious mind by means of an eidetic image.

I also asked for permission to use the stories in a book.

Corroboration

The Mill House,
Morningford, Essex
July 6th, 1934

Dear Madam,

Thank you very much for your letter which I received yesterday. I shall be glad if you make use of any of my experiences and would like you to use my name as I think some of those concerned might see or hear and would corroborate. Unfortunately I have lost touch with the students of the Geometry Class but I am writing to a friend who was a student in the house at the time and heard all about it. My sister can corroborate the two Indian experiences. . . .

Yours very truly,
Patty Alberigh-Mackay

Corroboration

Church Hall,
Morningford, Essex
July 19th, 1934

Dear Madam,

I must apologise for not having sent this corroboration before, but we have been moving house and have been fearfully busy. I hope it will be in time to be of use to you. . . .

I can corroborate the two Indian experiences of prevision had by my sister. I was told of the visions when they occurred and informed of them as soon as they were fulfilled.

Georgina Alberigh-Mackay

I was of course sorry that the geometrical experiment had not been corroborated and wrote again. Miss Alberigh-Mackay wrote in reply:

Church Hall,
Morningford, Essex
September 18th, 1934

Dear Madam,

I am so sorry that I have not been able to get corroboration of my geometry problem – I cannot (with the exception of one Gwen Upcott Gibb) remember any of the students' names and I have long since lost sight of G. Upcott Gibb. My sister clearly remembers my telling my family the story when I went home, but beyond that I am afraid I know no one who does. I am so sorry.

Yours very truly,
Patty Alberigh-Mackay

Miss Alberigh-Mackay also sent me a letter signed by her friend Jane B. Derring,¹ which I now add.

Corroboration

July 20th, 1934

Dear Patty,

I remember very clearly that vision you had in the early days of our acquaintance in Brunswick Square, you saw three men standing beside a large stone fire-place, one turned and smiled at you, it was the vividness of every detail which impressed you so much and when you told me of it a few hours after you said "Some day I know that I shall see that scene in real life." Years after, when you went to India, you did see that identical

¹ Substitute name.

scene in the Club House at Indore, and wrote telling me all about it. The fact which impressed me most about the whole thing was that at the time of your vision the Club House was not built and the fireplace non-existent . . . this seems to rule out all question of telepathy.

I also remember your telling me of seeing a funeral, a coffin being carried down a mountainside: this was years before Cissie's death but you recognised the details when it happened. I have very vague recollections about the Geometry problem, too vague to be of any use. There was another vision you had very clearly, long in advance of the event . . it was of your departure to S. Africa from Southampton Docks, you were standing beside General Cherry waiting to go on board the liner. I wish my memory would give more details, but it is a long time now since these things happened, the visions were certainly exciting when they happened and that has prevented them being forgotten.

Yours affectionately,

Jane B. Derring

I have placed this case after much hesitation in the Category of those where telepathy is definitely ruled out - the only case which could have been in Category III is not corroborated. The other two are either due to precognition or coincidence and there are too many details in my opinion to be accounted for by simple coincidence. Here I must leave this case merely thanking Miss Alberigh-Mackay for her patient response to my tiresome inquiries and for her permission to print her real name.

CASE 11

MR. WRIGHT'S DREAMS ABOUT R 101

On February 24th the following letter reached me :

100 Woodcroft Road,
Liverpool
23.2.34

Madam,

I listened with greatest interest to your talk this evening upon the subject of "Premonition and Prevision" and have not the least doubt that these two particular things play an enormous part in our lives. With regard to your request, I can mention a very remarkable happening, under the term "Prevision."

On two occasions, weeks before the ill fated disaster to the British Airship R.101 at Beauvais - I dreamed of this terrible happening. The clarity of vision was astounding, every detail could be seen.

I saw the huge ship plunge in flames, followed by a terrific explosion, almost frightening. Strange enough, the dream was repeated about a week after.

As you stated tonight, so few would have believed me, that I revealed my experiences to one person, a particular friend of mine, who is a keen psychic. He agreed entirely with me, but only he thought it was doomed.

To me it was a most impressive happening, and was almost clear enough the following morning, to sketch.

I am submitting this letter in all sincerity, as I feel, and believe that Premonition and Prevision, are something very real, and transcend far above the human plane of thought.

Faithfully yours,
J. S. Wright

I then wrote asking for the date of the dream if possible and for corroboration from Mr. Wright's friend. Mr. Wright answered that unfortunately he could not give the exact date of either of his dreams, but he had written to his friend Mr. Coxon who could corroborate that he heard of the dreams before their fulfilment. No doubt many people had uneasy feelings about the R 101, indeed Mr. Wright says in one of his letters 'In point of fact he (Coxon) shared similar views of disaster to this airship - but of course not in the same manner.' What makes the case interesting, however, is the detail about the ship plunging and bursting into flames.

Corroboration

25 Brierfield Road,
Liverpool, 15
10.3.36

Dear Madam,

It has afforded me much interest to read the letter you have written to my friend Mr. J. Wright, 100 Woodcroft Road of this city. You are asking for my confirmation that Mr. Wright's dream was well previous to the loss of the R.101. May I assure you that at least six months prior to the disaster we had interchanged frequently on the vision, so much so, that on several occasions we had been on the point of communicating with the War Office.

Knowing however, from past experience, how futile it has been to attempt to make any impression on this Governmental Department, we refrained from pressing the matter.

Both Mr. Wright and myself were fully convinced the R 101 was doomed. Trusting this letter has been of some little assistance.

I remain, Dear Madam, Yours Truly,
G. Coxon

I append notices in *The Times* of October 6, 1930.

GREAT AIRSHIP DISASTER
R 101 WRECKED IN FRANCE
CRASH FOLLOWED BY FIRE
46 LIVES LOST

The airship R 101 which left Cardington on Saturday evening on her experimental flight to India by way of Ismailia, struck the ground near Beauvais about 2 o'clock yesterday morning and was completely destroyed by fire. . . .

Cardington,
October 6th

The disaster to R 101 is both a heavy blow and an almost insoluble problem to the little community here which has shared so largely in her building. She carried the confidence of the workmen, and she left the mooring-mast last night so comfortably as to increase that confidence, while the relatives of the crew, and a crowd of those who helped to build her, sped her with their cheers. There had been no reason during her trials to doubt that she could make the voyage successfully to India and back, or to doubt that her officers, practised in handling and navigating airships for a dozen years, could prove equal to the task of managing her provided she were not the victim of unexpected and violent atmospheric disturbances of the sort which may destroy other craft beside those of the air. . . .

The report of the survivors and the testimony of those who saw the wreckage is that she struck the crest of a hill with her nose slightly down, and immediately took fire. That she should come into collision with the earth in a neighbourhood like that of Beauvais devoid of high hills is not easy to explain unless she was subjected to abnormal forces.

These extracts tend to show that those most nearly concerned in the construction were full of confidence, although there may have been people who understood the chance of vertical currents.

There is not space here to go into all the details of the enquiry but the general impression seems to have been that every kind of precaution had been taken.

As a close to these extracts I append a letter from Sir Samuel Hoare, printed on October 6th, for it is evidence of the confidence generally felt.

Men of R 101
A noble company of pioneers
Sir Samuel Hoare's tribute.

To The Editor of *The Times*.

Sir,

The disaster that has destroyed R 101 is so overwhelming in the suffering that it has imposed upon many families and the injury it has inflicted upon aeronautical science that any comment on its immediate cause or its ultimate result is at the moment inappropriate.

To-day I am thinking not of the future of airships, still less of the money and effort that have been spent upon a difficult experiment. I am remembering rather the band of brothers, who for eight years were engaged upon a great adventure, and who have died together at the very moment when the success of their enterprise seemed assured.

Of the lives of Lord Thomson and Sir Sefton Brancker your columns will recount the details. Their names will rightly hold a very high place in the history of British aeronautics. Lord Thomson and I had been friends for many years before our ways crossed at

Whitehall. Being closely connected with him at the Air Ministry I had many opportunities for appreciating his fine mind and vivid enthusiasm. With Sir Sefton Brancker I was in constant contact for six years. Never did a government office have the services of a keener or more lively official. Doubt vanished before his confidence, opposition went down before his zeal. His is the name that stands most conspicuously for civil aviation in every country of the world.

These were two notable personalities. The other victims were only now stepping upon the front of the stage, their names still to be established, their careers not yet consummated. Richmond the subtle designer who laboured well the minute particulars of every plan; Scott the fearless navigator who had twice taken an airship across the Atlantic; Colmore, the quiet and tactful administrator who supervised the work at Cardington; Irwin, the captain of the ship, as brave in death as he had been steadfast in life; Johnston, who in the teeth of rain and sand and wind could keep a course as straight as a furrow; Gilbert the meteorologist who with rare skill helped to chart the air between England and the East – these were the men who if they had lived would have stamped their achievements upon British history. I knew them well. Neither disappointment nor success deflected them from their life's work. When I talked with them at Cardington I knew that I was in the presence of determined men of set purpose. When I flew with them I marked the rare glance between brain and hand and eye that their markmanship displayed. And now they have died together, and with them has gone a great treasure of gathered knowledge and invaluable experience. For the whole Empire their death is a grievous blow. An experiment

that might have been so fruitful in beneficent results is now encompassed by the black clouds of unrelieved tragedy. Another band of pioneers have sacrificed their lives on the long trail of the Empire's advance. A great public sorrow indeed, but a private sorrow even greater for the men who have been killed were as dearly loved in their homes as they will be honourably respected in the wider world outside.

Your obedient servant,

Samuel Hoare

18 Cadogan Gardens, S.W.

October 5

CASE 12

MR. BOYD'S DREAM ABOUT THE R 101 DISASTER

I have a second case of precognition about the R.101 and although Mr. Boyd did not dream twice, his experience seems to me quite as striking as Mr. Wright's because of the amount of detail.

125 Wellington Road,
Bush Hill Park,
Enfield

7.3.34

Dear Madam,

Having read your talk on the subject of "Premonition and Prevision" in "The Listener," my interest has been aroused and in response to your invitation I hope that the following dream experience may be of interest.

On October 3rd in 1930 I dreamed that I saw a large airship crash, after some preliminary difficulties in manœuvring, on to the top of a hill and burst into

flames. Many people were silhouetted against the bright yellow flames and were trying to escape, but none succeeded so far as I am able to remember.

The fact that the crash occurred on the top of a hill was very much impressed upon me as I very distinctly remember looking up a steep slope with the burning wreck above me.

While the wreck was still burning a small company of soldiers arrived under the command of an officer on horseback who was very excited and dashed about from place to place but was unable to help anybody.

Further details of the dream I am not able to remember clearly.

I awoke the next morning with my mind very full of what had happened in the dream and the very first thing I did was to see if the morning newspapers had any news of an airship disaster, with the airship R 101 in mind as this was just preparing for her flight to India. There was no account of any disaster and I decided that the dream was nothing more than a dream.

But on Sunday morning, October 6th, I learned with curious feeling that R 101 had crashed at Beauvais, less than 48 hours after my dream. You will probably be interested to learn that I related the dream to at least one person, my fiancée, between October 3rd and October 5th and she can corroborate the facts I have set out.

When later, photographs appeared in the newspapers and news reel films were shown, an officer on horseback was a prominent figure amongst those present and of course it is common knowledge that R 101 crashed into a hill after losing height through the effects of rain.

I hope this account may be of interest and use to you.

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Boyd

I wrote and asked if Mr. Boyd's fiancée would corroborate and received later the following letter from Miss Hare:

Corroboration

55 Gardenia Road,
Bush Hill Park,
Enfield

19th September, 1934

Dear Madam,

I trust you will forgive my neglect in not writing to you as promised for so long, and believe me that it is not through lack of interest. I very much appreciate your study and feel sorry that I have not helped you by an earlier reply.

The following is my fiancé's dream as far as I am able to recollect. He related it to me the day after he had dreamed, and to my mind the significance of it is marked by reason of the events which followed three days afterwards, namely the disaster of the airship R 101.

He was standing at the foot of a high hill over which the sun appeared to be setting. There came into view an airship which, as it neared the hill, seemed to break into two pieces and was suddenly in flames. So vivid was it that he could discern the burning bodies of the people as they fell from the plane. He was conscious of policemen clothed in French uniform who arrived on horseback to help. He himself was powerless to assist as he felt as though he were watching apart. His own words were "Like a disembodied spirit." The dream was emphasised by the fact that when we visited a cinema the following week and saw a film of the R 101 disaster, my fiancé was amazed to realise that the scene was almost identical with that of his dream, especially

in the appearance of the French gendarmes who were shown examining the debris.

I find this all particularly remarkable, in so much that he is not a person who dreams often, and is usually quite unaffected by the small events which we are apt to call coincidence.

I must again apologise for the late arrival of this letter and I hope very much that it will be of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Hare

As was announced in *The Times* of October 6th, the disaster to the R 101 (see Wright case) happened on October 5th. On October 7th *The Times* contained the following:

. . . According to the clearest accounts I have heard from any of the survivors, the ship was flying normally – my informant did not know at what height – when her nose dropped until she was at an angle not much less than 45 degrees. This is nothing very unusual in an airship when there are vertical air currents about, and it did not alarm the crew. The five engines were running at cruising speed when this happened. In a few moments the ship was back on an even keel. Now, if her level flight was restored by the use of the elevators on her tail, the effect would be not so much to raise her head as to bring down her tail to the level of her head. The ship was over 700 ft. long; if she really dipped to 45 deg. – that is if it was her nose that fell and not her tail that rose – then her nose fell 300 ft. and when she flattened out she had lost about that much height. And if she had previously been flying at 500 ft. just below the clouds – she was now very

near the ground. The space beneath her was less than one-third of her length.

The next manoeuvre would be to regain height by dipping the tail slightly, trimming the ship up by the head, and letting her climb. But before this could be done the ship, either as the result of structural failure – a point on which the experts refuse to be definite at present – or because of a second downward gust, again dipped by the nose. . . .

The ship hit the ground almost at cruising speed – say 50 knots. Her forward half was completely wrecked at once. The control car was smashed to pieces and thrust up into the hull. . . .

The survivors know nothing of any difficulty with the altimeter. But the formation of the ground about Beauvais is peculiar. Just before she crashed R 101 had crossed a wide valley like a saucer, and it was the rim of the saucer she hit. It was pitch dark and raining. No trustworthy observer on the ground, so far as I know, has reported the ship's height, and several heard her without seeing her.

. . . The position of the men's bodies in the wreck did not suggest that they had more than a moment's warning of danger. They had not moved farther from their sleeping quarters and posts of duty than they might have done after the crash, before the fire overcame them. In the crew's quarters they were found huddled together near the gangway. Those in the cabins and in the control car were found entangled in the wreckage of that part of the ship. They were caught unawares by the crash and trapped before they could make for safety.

On October 6th the following paragraph appeared in *The Times*:

Directly after the crash all the available police and troops at Beauvais hurried to the rescue. As fast as the bodies could be got out of the wreck they were laid in a row along the outskirts of the wood and sheets were thrown over them. Eight bodies were still there this afternoon. All of them, as far as I could see, were practically unrecognizable.

In a picture in *The Times* of October 7th, 1930 of the wreckage, there is a mounted gendarme or soldier in the foreground.

The details in this premonitory dream are too exact to be due to chance. Of course it may be averred that the dreamer when he saw the Cinema picture subsequently confused it with his dream, and added details. But the main incident of the crash is I think definitely an example of precognitive dreaming.

CASE 13

MRS. HOLMS' DREAM OF THE MEOPHAM AEROPLANE DISASTER

Prevision about accidents to aeroplanes seem not uncommon, perhaps because we are not yet thoroughly accustomed to them.

Mrs. Holms wrote to me as follows enclosing an account of her remarkable dream:

Farringford,
London Road,
Cheltenham
11th March, 1934

Dear Madam,

About three weeks ago you broadcast a talk about dreams of prevision and ended by asking anyone who

had had such dreams to communicate with you. I am sending you two accounts of dreams. One is of true pre-vision, the other is more of what I might call "second sight." . . .

Yours truly,

G. H. M. Holms

A DREAM OF PRE-VISION

In July 1930 I was at Goathland in Yorkshire with my husband and daughter on a holiday. We spent our time taking long walks all over the open moors which surround the place.

On the night of Friday the 18th I dreamt that I, by myself, was walking along a path crossing a gentle slope of heather covered hillside. The horizon was hidden all round by undulating moorland hills, no trees or buildings, just heather. The heathery hillside rose on my left, but on my right, where the ground dropped gradually, there was roughish green grass dotted here and there with apple trees, and a short distance ahead of me, on the path, two labourers were working.

The sky was completely covered with low-lying light grey clouds, and suddenly, out of the clouds, high up on my left the body of a man came shooting down, at a slightly curving slant, head first, at a terrific pace, as if from a great distance. My brain seemed super-active. I took in his whole appearance instantaneously as he fell. A medium sized very well set up figure, in a very well-cut grey suit, with well cut fairish hair, clean shaved. I did not see his full face, only his back and side view. The great momentum carried him down to my right, where he landed on his head a few yards from

me, with a sickening thud, and with the thud I heard something crack and said out loud, "There goes his skull." The body rebounded once and then rolled over once or twice, a yard or two, and bumped into a tree, which stopped it. I saw the top of the mutilated head which was towards me. It was smashed in like the top of an egg, and covered with blood.

I saw the labourers drop their tools and hurry down the grass. They raised the body and carried it up to the path behind me - I turned and saw a cottage 30 or 40 yards away, with two or three apple trees round it. It was a gabled plastered thatched cottage, such as is never seen on Yorkshire moors. The men carried the man to the cottage. They took no notice of me, nor did I speak to them. I seemed passive, in some way altogether detached from the scene. I then woke up.

I had no feeling of vagueness, or the unreasoning terror of a nightmare. It was all clear, vivid, consecutive, and happened so quickly, just as if I had witnessed a painful tragedy in real life. As I dressed the whole scene, instead of fading, became more and more intensified. I told my husband and daughter, and could not shake it off. The words "There goes his skull" remained all day in my ears and the dream obsessed me until Tuesday morning, the 22nd, when the paper announced briefly a terrible air catastrophe at Meopham, Kent, in which Lord Dufferin, Lady Ednam, Mrs. Loeffler, two other men and a pilot had all been killed by falling from an aeroplane on Monday the 21st.

There were no further details, but I and my daughter were struck with the coincidence, especially considering the scenery. The meadow, the apple trees and cottage, just a vignette of a South of England landscape framed

all round by the moors which had been impressing my mind for the previous week or two.

I began writing a letter to the editor of *Light* but had not time to finish it and post it that day. Very unfortunately as it happened, for the next morning full details appeared, confirming everything I had seen. The chief witness was a farmer or labourer. He was in an orchard when he saw something large falling from the sky, which came down, he said, with a "thud" like a sack of potatoes. It rebounded once or twice, he said and then rolled against a tree. He ran up and saw it was the body of a man, and that the "skull" was smashed. He looked up but could not see or hear any trace of an aeroplane. The body seemed just to have dropped from the sky, he said. After a moment or two another body fell, further down the orchard, and then the remaining ones close together. He got help and the bodies were carried to his cottage at the end of the orchard. Parts of the aeroplane were picked up at various spots some distance away.

This was my dream in every particular, except that I only saw the first body fall. Even the word "skull," so strange for me to have used, was reproduced by the witness.

I did not finish my letter to the editor, it was no use after the details of the accident had been published, but I have it by me.¹

... I might add here that aeroplanes have never come into my life at all. I have never been in one, and never heard anyone talk about them, except in reference to famous flights in the papers. My dream surprised us

¹ Mrs. Holms unfortunately tore up this letter in 1935 before I wrote to her in 1936 when I was handling this case myself.

all, as the subject of flying never enters into our ordinary life or conversation.

The other published details of the accident were that the party of people had met at Mrs. Loeffler's house at Le Touquet on Friday the 18th July, for the week end, and then had probably arranged to return by air all together on Monday. It seems to me that they must have been talking over and arranging their plans on Friday evening, and some wave of communication reached me that night – but “why” is a mystery. I was a stranger, far away, and unable to warn them.

A feeble explanation may be that the Dufferin family have always been very familiar to me, as I come from their neighbourhood in Ireland, also I have lived a lot in India where the famous Lord Dufferin and Harriet Lady Dufferin are still household words, and my parents met them, but not I. This idea is very far-fetched, but it is the only connection I can think of.

G. H. M. Holms

When I began dealing with these cases myself I wrote and asked if Mrs. Holms' husband and daughter could corroborate and Mrs. Holms then replied and enclosed a dictated letter :

Corroboration

Farringford,
London Road,
Cheltenham
26th August, 1934

Dear Madam,

Very many thanks for your letter. I am quite willing for you to make any use of my experience which you may care to, and I have no objection at all to my name

being given. My husband is a retired member of the Indian Civil Service. He has lately lost his sight and cannot write, but he has dictated a short statement to a friend, and signed it, and I send it to you herewith. I also send a statement made by the same friend who remembers the circumstances perfectly though she has forgotten the details. I had forgotten that I had written to her at the time, but she mentioned it as soon as my husband began dictating to her. My daughter is now married. I have written to her and asked her to send an account of anything she can remember to you direct. Her name is Wright.

I am afraid that little beyond the circumstance itself remains in the recollection of my family.

Dreams do not impress third parties in the same way. Though they may be much struck and interested at the moment details naturally fade and four years have passed. But I have a fair number of personal psychic experiences, largely in what other people would call dreams and some in the form of efforts at communication from the other side, but I know the difference well now myself. Ordinary dreams begin and end vaguely and soon fade away. The others are totally different – more vivid than real life and photograph themselves permanently on one's mind. This particular dream is as vivid as if it had occurred last night. I know I have no real evidence, I should have taken more trouble at the time. Perhaps the fact that my husband and my daughter remember that I told them my dream (even though their recollection of the details is almost gone) before the news came of the Meopham disaster may be of some slight evidence.

Yours faithfully,

G. H. M. Holms

Here follows a letter from Mrs. Holms' husband:

August 25th, 1934

Dictated as I cannot see.

When we were at Goathland in July four years ago, my wife told me one morning of a dream which made a great impression on her – it was about some object or objects falling from the sky, but I do not remember details. A few days later we read of the disaster in the air to Lord Dufferin and others which my wife connected with her dream at the time.

M. Holms, I.C.S. retired

Glan-Rhydd,
Nottage,
Porthcawl
25.7.34

Mrs. Holms wrote to me at the time of the air disaster at Meopham telling me of the strange dream she had had a few days before, of how she had seen an object falling from the sky and being horror-stricken to see that it was a man. She gave me more details of her dream, but that is the part of it I remember.

M. Riley

I append extracts from *The Times* of the accident on July 21st, 1930, and also of the inquest on July 23rd, 1930:

MYSTERY OF THE AIR
DISASTER IN KENT
MACHINE FALLS IN PIECES
SIX LIVES LOST.

Meopham (Kent)
July 21

Four passengers, the pilot and the assistant pilot, forming the full complement of an aeroplane, were killed to-day when the machine crashed near the village of Meopham, about five miles south of Gravesend. The cause of the accident is at present unexplained, for the machine seems to have come to pieces in the air. The engine fell into the drive of a private house, and the occupants of the aeroplane, except the pilot, were thrown out into an adjoining orchard and instantly killed.

The evidence at the inquest reported in *The Times* of July 24th, 1930.

The first witness was Thomas Hermitage of Leylands Orchard, where the aeroplane fell. "I was in the hall about 2.30 on Monday afternoon," he said, "just having had my dinner, when I heard a crash. I rushed out of the hall into the orchard. I saw a body falling through the air, and when it struck the ground a short distance from me it bounced up again. I ran for a policeman and also told a Mr. Ward, and together we went back and found four more bodies. Three bodies were in one meadow and the two others were in different meadows."

Harold Ward of Leylands Orchard, Meopham, who witnessed the disaster, said - "When I first saw the aeroplane it appeared to turn over and nose dive.

The things that looked like small aeroplanes came from it. I did not realize what these objects were until they fell lower, and then I saw they were human bodies. The wing of the aeroplane then parted and floated in the air like a piece of paper."

THE CORONER - "Did you see where these bodies fell?" - "I rushed down the garden and was told they had fallen in the orchard. We searched and at first found four. The other was found later."

Asked by a representative of the Walcot Air Line in which direction the aeroplane was flying, Ward said that he could not say. When he first saw it it seemed to come out of the clouds and roll over. It was on its side.

Daily Express reported '... The other five bodies had fractured skulls, legs and arms.'

Daily Mail - '... Mr. Shearing (assistant pilot) ... had fractured base of skull ... the other five bodies were very seriously injured with fractured skulls, legs and arms.'

Daily Telegraph - 'The other five bodies were very seriously injured with fractured skulls, legs and arms.'

These reports confirm that Mrs. Holms had foreseen the details correctly. The witness who was in the orchard did not apparently use the actual words 'with a thud like a sack of potatoes.' At least I cannot find a record of this, but he did describe how he saw 'a body falling through the air and when it struck the ground a short distance from me it bounced up again.' I cannot find either that a witness used the actual word 'skull,' but all the reports examined mention the fractured skull of all the victims. The phrase 'there goes the skull' in Mrs. Holms' dream was however uttered by herself.

CASE 14

MRS. STEPHENS' DREAM
OF YOUNG OFFICER AND HIS SHOULDER STRAP

This letter reached me two months after my broadcast:

Parcyronen,
Carmarthen
April 17th

Dear Madam,

I enclose descriptions of six prophetic dreams experienced by my mother, my maternal grandmother and by myself . . . as in your talk in the series "Enquiries into the Unknown" you ask for details of such experiences.

I have not experienced these dreams just lately, but they are fairly common occurrences in my life and I am quite used to them. . . .

Yours faithfully,
(Miss) D. Stephens

I do not give the other dreams as they occurred too long ago for corroboration to be obtained. The one I now transcribe was dreamed by Miss Stephens' mother. In the dream she impersonated an officer in khaki. The account is written out by Miss Stephens on her mother's description, and then signed by the dreamer.

A PROPHECIC DREAM
THE YOUNG OFFICER

About two years before the Great War, I had a dream which I told my family on the morning after. It was as follows :

I was an officer in H.M. Army in Khaki uniform and I was walking in the town of C—— with a lady whose face I could not make out (as so often happens in dreams).

I noticed a number of women in nurse's uniform, and saw men going into the Town Hall and coming out in Khaki uniform. I recognised a great number of them. As the lady and I were walking down a street, I put up my hand to the tab or strap on my shoulder, I felt that it had come unsewn. I remarked on this to the lady, and she replied "I can sew it on for you." "No thank you," I said, "It must be done by an army tailor." Two years after War was declared, and the Town Hall was used for enrolling. My son, who was then in Canada joined up and came over with the first contingent of the Canadians, to Great Britain, for training before leaving for France. He had his first leave home soon after arriving in this country. I was walking with him down the same street as in my dream, he put his hand to the strap on his shoulder and remarked "This has come undone." I replied "I can sew it on for you." "Thank you," he answered, "but it must be done by an army tailor."

L. H. G. Stephens

This dream was told to her daughter and a friend who is now dead and I print the relevant passage in a letter dated November 3rd, 1936, received in answer to mine asking for corroboration.

Corroboration

The dream about the young officer and the shoulder strap was signed by my mother, and the officer she

dreamed of and who afterwards did the actions in reality was my brother. She also sent in the account of my grandmother's true dream about the ship.

She told the dream about the officer to myself and a woman friend who died last year. We distinctly remembered it, when we heard of the dream coming true.

The account I sent you is given as I recollect my mother telling it to us.

D. S.

The first time I read this account carelessly I imagined the dreamer was a man but as will be noticed the dream was written out by Miss S. and her mother signed the account as correct – an inverted corroboration.

The curious part of this experience which removes it from chance coincidence is that two years before the War Mrs. Stephens should have dreamed of herself impersonating a young man in khaki who made the remarks her son made subsequently. This may be called a blurred impression, but impression it was and the detail again seems to preclude chance as an explanation.

CASE 15

MRS. CLARKE'S PREMONITION OF A FATAL ACCIDENT TO A NEIGHBOUR

The next case is one where it is just possible that if the warning had been more explicit a life might have been saved. As it was, although the actual happening

had been foretold, no one could have known exactly what to do or where it would happen. The following statement was sent to me:

Greenwood,
Crockhurst Hill,
Worthing, Sussex
27.2.34

A few years ago I met a woman at Chichester about whom I had heard very many good things. Quite poor herself, she spent herself entirely on others. I also am poor – but felt at least I could entertain *her* for a few days and wait on her and give her a rest, so I asked her to my house. My husband had a small holding and we lived on Littlehampton Road, Worthing. Our nearest station was Goring by sea.

All was well, until I set out from my house on my walk to the station to meet her. With every step I took, a greater horror and premonition took possession of me, until I could scarcely go forward. I knew definitely that I expected to hear a terrible cry – but had no idea what would cause this. I arrived at the station, and my friend (then almost a stranger) will vouch for what follows.

It seems, I did not greet her, but in a state almost of hysteria, told her something dreadful was going to happen. My poor friend told me afterwards that she saw her anticipated rest beginning with an immediate case of mental nursing.

However, she walked home with me, talking quietly and helpfully and we sat down for a few minutes to rest. Then without the least warning I rushed from the room, through the kitchen and threw the back door wide open. The awful cry rang out *exactly* as I had been hearing it all the time. It was given by a man who saw

a woman in flames come out of her house, right into a strong wind. Of course it was useless – before anybody could reach her. *To me* the marvellous part is still to come. I learned the next day that the father of the burned woman had been killed by a train at the station Goring by sea, just three years before.

Yours truly,

Gladys Clarke

Mrs. Clarke mentioned the name and address of her friend, Mrs. Bulbeck, who was written to by the Investigation Officer of the Society for Psychical Research and who sent the following reply:

Corroboration

March 16, 1934

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of enquiry re Mrs. Clarke of Worthing, I remember the incident quite clearly. It must be several years ago now. Mrs. Clarke had asked me to spend the day with her at Goring-by-sea where she then lived. I went by an early train so as to have a good long day. But when I arrived at Goring station Mrs. Clarke was there to meet me. She was upset and agitated. She said to me, that something dreadful was going to happen. I tried to laugh it off, but I could see she was very serious and kept repeating all the two miles home that something was wrong. She could not tell me why, only she felt it was so. We arrived home and she had prepared the vegetables, etc. for dinner and she was going out at the back of the house. As she opened the back door we both heard a piercing scream. The poor little woman over the way had caught fire and not a stitch of clothing was left and of course she died. The whole thing was too

terrible and sad for me ever to forget it. But Mrs. Clarke was so certain something was going to happen. So I can tell you I did not have a very nice day after all. If there is anything else I could tell you I shall be only too pleased.

Kind regards, Yours very sincerely,

Ellen J. Bulbeck

P.S. - The lady who was burnt was no relation to Mrs. Clarke, only a neighbour but she knew her very well also her husband. E. B.

The only thing missing was the date and that Mrs. Clarke now supplied :

Greenwood,
Crockhurst Hill,
Worthing
21.3.34

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Bulbeck has asked me to supply you the date of my premonition at Goring Station. You will find it at the end of this letter.

Does it interest you to know that it was the suggestion made by Dame E. Lyttelton in the Radio Talk that we have a thought centre, separate to the brain which caused me to send her the details of my experience. I have particularly noticed, in each case, when I have these premonitions, that my conscious mind has been fully engaged on some domestic or other duty.

Here are the details :

Name of victim, Mrs. Bowers.

Accident happened March 18th 1925, did not regain consciousness, died early on the 19-3-25.

Yours faithfully,

Gladys Clarke

Mrs. Clarke has had other experiences and I include one she sent in 1936.

Greenwood,
Crockhurst Hill,
Worthing
20.3.36

[After describing one or two other experiences Mrs. Clarke continues]:

On another occasion I was in Yeovil for the first time in my life and just going to pony drive five miles into the country where I was to stay. I turned to my friends and said, drive slowly, I am going to find a purse, a big black, soft, bulging purse.

They were derisive and we forgot about it - started on our journey, talking of other things. We had gone about 3 miles, when I chanced to look down and there in the road lay the purse, big, black and bulging, but only with tobacco. Nevertheless I had seen it and described it when we were still in Yeovil.

In 1936 when I began to prepare this book I wrote personally to Mrs. Clarke asking her for corroboration of the purse incident and I transcribe the following extract from her reply enclosing corroboration of the incident.

Corroboration

Greenwood,
Crockhurst Hill,
Worthing
26.8.36

Dear Mrs. Lyttelton,

I enclose a little statement from my husband who was the only person beside my father-in-law (now deceased) at Yeovil Station when I had the vision of the large

purse lying in the road. Is one's husband's evidence permissible? . . .

Yours sincerely,
Gladys Clarke

Greenwood
26.8.36

It is quite true that my wife said she would find a purse on the way home and that she did so, when on a visit to my father who lived at Ilchester and has since died.

L. Clarke

I have printed this account merely to show that Mrs. Clarke is subject to such impressions. The impression itself was probably telepathic rather than precognitive. A further instance she gave me of having foretold a burglary in her house would probably come under the telepathic category also.

I fail to see however how Mrs. Clarke's premonition of disaster can be ascribed to anything but precognition. One wonders whether supposing Mrs. Clarke could have foreseen its actual occurrence and not merely sensed the emotion connected with it, she might have saved her neighbour's life by warning her. I have collected several cases of warnings which, displaying precognitive knowledge, have averted calamity, but much more study is needed before any pronouncement could be made about such cases.

CASE 16

MRS. WOOLNER'S DREAM OF HER LITTLE SON'S DEATH

The following is an example of a precognitive impression persisting for months.

4 Evington Park Road,
Leicester

Feb. 27th, 1934

Dear Madam,

In response to your request for premonitions I am sending my own experience.

In the spring of 1920 while busy with my household duties, I had a vision like a flash of lightning of my little son, aged 9, in a coffin. Some weeks elapsed and again I had the same experience. In both cases I had a consciousness of the large size of the coffin. Horrified I did my best to put it out of my mind but all the time I felt a sword over my head.

In July the same year we took our son to Llandudno for a month. The first Sunday morning we went to church as was our custom. In the course of the sermon the clergyman said "God sometimes inflicts almost unbearable pain to fulfil His plans." As he said this I felt it was for me and a physical pain like a knife-thrust went through my heart and I felt sick. Again I tried to forget but it seemed impossible to be normal. As the month wore on I got worse and one morning on the beach I could have screamed with terror. I argued with myself and said aloud "Nothing has happened yet, enjoy your life while things are all right."

On 20th August we went to Bettws-y-coed against my will for I was secretly terrified. We went to the Swallow Falls and climbed one of the smaller moun-

tains. All the time I kept gripping my son's coat. I dare not let him move away from me, I was panic-stricken. My husband was very cross about it and said I was letting my nerves get the better of me. August 21st we arrived home. August 24th coming home from school a little chum pushed my son backwards off the pavement into a motor car. He died six hours later. August 27th his body came home from the Hospital in its coffin on his 10th birthday.

Going into the room where his body lay I noticed, through my numbness, the coffin lid extending against the wall, *it was very much taller than I should have thought would be needed!*

My husband will testify that what I have written is the truth.

Through the help of good mediums, Mrs. Etta Wriedt, Mrs. Osborn Leonard, Mrs. Mason and several others we know that he still lives and loves.

Gladys M. Woolner,
R. E. Woolner

This case might have been placed among those possibly attributable to coincidence were it not for the continual recurrence of the premonition. Similarly if the case had been one of illness I should have placed it among those which could plausibly be explained by telepathy from the child's mind which had unconscious knowledge of its own condition. But the child was killed by an accident three or four months after the visual impression of the boy in a coffin which seemed too large for him. I think I am justified in placing this testimony in Category IV as one of Precognition.

The letter is countersigned by Mrs. Woolner's husband, Mr. R. E. Woolner.

This case is also an example of the vivid compelling nature of a dream which differentiates it from an ordinary dream. Mrs. Woolner had apparently no exact idea of what kind of death was coming to her little son, but an overwhelming sense of fear.



CONCLUSION

It cannot yet be said that Precognition is admitted as an established fact even to the degree that such a statement can be made about Telepathy: but the evidence for it which requires investigation and study is growing more and more weighty.

Science and philosophy have discovered that our ideas about the world of matter, founded upon the perceptions of our senses are a mass of inconsistencies. The habits of thought built upon these ideas suffer also. What we have called realities are largely constructs of our minds reared upon the illusory messages of these same senses.

When we have to deal with observed mental phenomena we should demand the same painstaking and unwearying study which is employed by physicists. But some of the implications seem so confusing, contradictory and revolutionary that the tendency is to ignore them and their investigation is neglected.

It is conceded that investigation of these supernormal powers of the mind is extremely difficult and often unsatisfactory: they are sporadic and cannot be repeated at will; their origin is mysterious and their purpose not understood. Precognition, for instance, seems to occur without conscious effort and how such knowledge is acquired and how transmitted to consciousness is the puzzle. As Professor Eddington says 'Just when the final leap to consciousness occurs is not clear. We do not know the last stage of the message in the physical world before it becomes a sensation in

consciousness.' He is, of course, not writing specifically of precognition, but is disputing generally the theory that all mental processes have a material origin. He continues, 'I do not believe that the activity of matter at a certain point of the brain stimulates an activity of the mind; my view is that the activity of matter there is a metrical description of certain aspects of the activity of the mind.'¹

The world of the senses is then illusory; telepathy reveals that our ideas of space are not final and precognition reveals the same about our ideas of time. We are ignorant of its real nature as we have been ignorant of the real nature of so many of our sense perceptions. The possible existence of precognition is perhaps the most important subject of scientific inquiry looming upon the horizon, for the reason that it carries us further away from the world of our senses even than telepathy. Telepathy may inform us of events or emotions beyond the reach of our normal senses, but not beyond comprehension by them. Precognition leads us into a shadowy region where our senses give us no help; it is the one supernatural power which has by its very nature to be recognized as such. We can imagine the bridging of space as a possibility, but as soon as we reach time, and find that it too can be bridged our mental grasp fails. We are suddenly brought up against the demonstration of our own inadequate apprehension of the world we live in.

Precognition lies beyond our sense perception: it must if it exists, belong to an order of life different from that we think we know. Precognition is possibly the only power we are able to recognize that carries in

¹*The Nature of Psychical Research*, p. 268.

itself evidence of the relativity of our knowledge. Like the leaf which Noah's dove brought back to the Ark, it is the witness of another field of existence beyond the floods of illusion.

Just as observation of minute happenings in matter have heralded vast discoveries, so may the investigation and study of cases of precognition lead to stupendous philosophical developments.

It is not for me to attempt any speculation as to what these developments might be. The mind of humanity moves very slowly, ploughing its way through endless bogs of speculation, materialistic and spiritual, striving to reconcile the scientific knowledge it is constantly acquiring with the yearning for some knowledge of its own ultimate destiny. The mental attitude which shirks no investigation and no inevitable deduction, is the right one, but seems exceedingly difficult to maintain in its purity. Very different schools of thought share the propensity to ignore considerations which conflict, or seem to conflict with their particular theories.

Certain questions obtrude themselves. Is everything that happens predestined, and are human creatures mere puppets dancing on strings in an already planned performance? Or are we creatures restricted to certain boundaries yet within those allowed to exercise a measure of freedom and choice? Or again, do we create and shape our own futures however unconsciously? Is there room for an element of chance? If every case of precognition displayed a motive; if the foreknowledge were always an assistance to any decision, a warning against a contemplated action, a reassurance in danger, this would be puzzling enough, yet it might be possible to postulate a guiding mind behind the

phenomena. But many of the cases, even in this little collection, are trivial and meaningless and seem to reveal only a chance glimpse into the future.

Whatever anyone may think or feel about these hazarded and alternative questions, it is hardly possible, if precognition exists, not to believe that human beings occasionally exercise the power to transcend sense perceptions. The possession of a faculty which is superior in range to any perception, physical or mental, of which they are normally aware, must carry some implications. Does the human mind sometimes travel beyond sense perception and mental exercise and reach a different relativity to space and time?

If this is possible during the life of the body, is it not conceivable that whatever portion of our being exercises that faculty may, since it is not dependent upon the body, survive its disintegration? We have perhaps for a moment felt the pulsation of a life beyond our own, but to which some part of us already belongs. We are perhaps greater than we know.

1937